the SPARTANA

issue one
volume forty five
september 25, 2015
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

INSIDE NOW

NEWS
Meet Officer Tuttle, resource officer and lover of football. New driving laws take effect, impacting student drivers. 2

LIFE
Drug dog Thor retires. Student returns from year abroad in Italy. Foreign exchange students discuss opinions of living abroad. 4

FEATURE
New teachers anticipate school year and share information about themselves. 8

OPINION
Arts classes are vital for student growth, opinion editor argues. New athlete game day attire causes contention. 3

SPORTS
Football enters SAC conference. Star of girls golf team interviewed. Soccer begins postseason. 6

ONLINE
visit www.hhsspartana.com.

@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

www.hhsspartana.com | A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

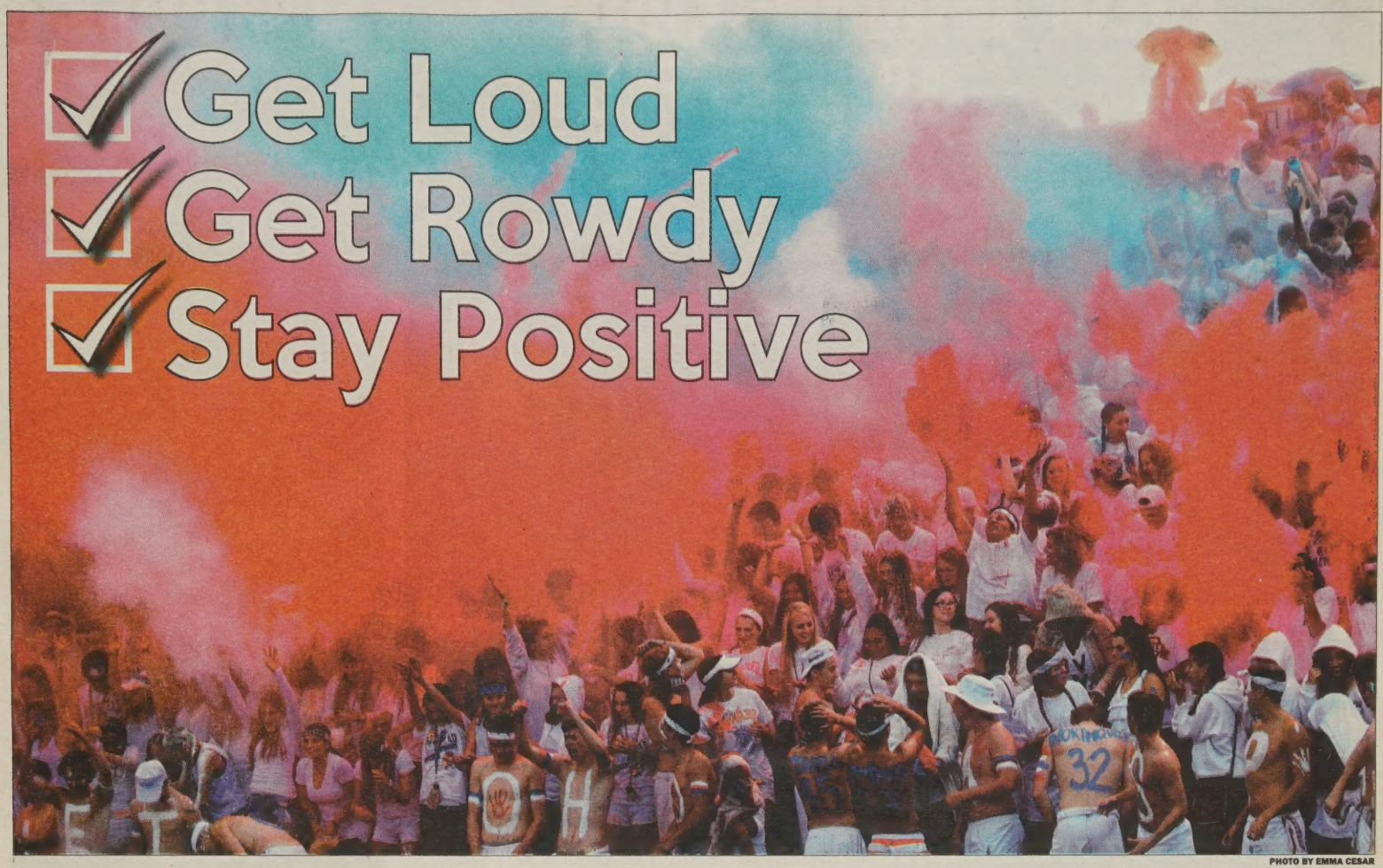


PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

Student section encourages football team and promotes Friday night festivity

BY TESSA VIRGILIO
Executive Editor

As Drew Keszei (11), quarterback, swipes the sweat from his brow, he raises his chin to observe his surroundings through a sheeny glaze of sweat that inhibits his sight. The panoramic view of the field and its attendees, decked with blue and gold, scream and hurdle encouraging chants toward the team. This excitement ignites the stamina in him that each rally against an opponent brings, causing him to push for the win, surpassing physical and mental boundaries.

Student enthusiasm for school sports is personified by the passion of the student section. Known around the community for its dedication to school spirit, having been featured on WANE news, the student body is as vital on-field as it is off the field. Players look up to the stands, see a crowd of their peers, and the excitement from both sides becomes palpable. The student body attendance facilitates great performance from players.

The student section determines the environment of a game, affecting the crowd, parents, peers and teachers, as well as the team on field.

"When we hear them doing all of their chants with their shirts off and running around the field doing push-ups, that brings the tempo of the game up a lot," Keszei said. "The 'I Believe' chants at the beginning of the game are pretty cool."

Whether the game is won or lost, the presence of a sea of festive, spirited peers does not fail to bring the hint of a smile and a glint of confidence even at a low point.

"[The student section] can bring you up, especially if we had a bad play and they're cheering, that can definitely change the mindset of the game," Keszei said. "Definitely in the beginning when we come out for a half, just a reminder, each time we start up [is an important time to hear the encouragement of the student section]."

The methods of activating school spirit by the student section are simple, and the leaders give their partners a reason to cheer. School pride at Homestead means one "believes that [they] will win," and they make this profession audible.

"Our role as the student section is to show our school spirit and we want to get the actual players pumped for the game because we are there to support them," Parker Miller (12), student section leader, said. "When we went to the Northside game, you could see that when we actually started like doing chants the team actually started getting better. Through the first quarter we weren't really saying much, and second second quarter we started getting loud and you could see it had an effect on how the team played."

With the pep band's patriotic tunes resounding from the end zone in conjunction with the merriment and optimism of the massive student body huddled in the focal of the bleachers, the enthusiasm of the painters and their posse is inevitably contagious.

Being in the midst of football season, autumn temperatures and warm beverages prevailing, students do not need much motivation to get out and about. They enjoy coming to the games to support their school as it is a recognizably different atmosphere when the student body comes together for a night of jubilant rivalry.

"The student section is a great way to show school spirit, and it makes the games a lot more fun and it's really encouraging to the team," Shriya Jain (11), student section member, said. "It's intimidating to the opponents, and it helps our team play better and the atmosphere better when we cheer for them."

Any sports faceoff possesses its own set of highs and lows, and to many the student section is a crucial element of success for players when facing the rollercoaster of emotions that each game presents.

"I think the biggest moment was last year against Carroll," Austin Krider (12), wide receiver, said. "It was the game of the week, so it seemed like everybody came out. And just looking up, it was just packed. The blood's going and your adrenaline's going and everything-it was crazy. It definitely gives you the chills and gets you going."

> "The energy of (the student section) really helps (the team) to get ready and focused for our opponent."
>
> **AUSTIN KRIDER (12)**
> *Wide Receiver*

When there is a time to get rowdy, the student section prevails in its ability to do so. Painted bodies and faces, colored cornstarch and exotic clothing draws the attention of the crowd and emits a contagious attitude of pride for one's team.

"I would say it definitely gets us pumped up, running out onto the field, and seeing everybody," Krider said. "Usually there's different themes going on, and sometimes that white powder stuff goes flying everywhere. I think overall, just the energy of them really helps us to get ready and focused for our opponent."

While the student section is generally admired for its euphoric vibe at games and ability to pump up a crowd, some negativity has been associated with them the student assembly lately as well. An alumnus of 2015 tweeted an evidently controversial statement after the home game against Bishop Dwenger on Sep. 4.

"Homestead grad here to say that...@GoSpartans2016 You guys were terrible. @The Saintuary was amazing, you all embarrassed Homestead," Alec Peña, alumnus, said on Twitter.

Replies to the blow at Peña's former school were critical and defensive. It was mentioned that it is definite that the opposing school is going to be more hyped up when winning, which often proves true.

The environment the student section establishes at a game is unmatchable, and this is understandable when observing the massive turnout at many sports events, chiefly football, but also soccer, basketball, and others. A Twitter account named "Student Section Goals" mentions the school as a model student section. Regardless of the fluctuating conditions of a game, the student section prevails as the energy source for the sport fanatics in attendance.

PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

TOP: Students' white attire is tarnished in the name of school spirit with red, white and blue colored powders at the Homecoming game against Carroll on Friday, Sept. 11. Commemorating the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the student section implemented an American theme for the night. ABOVE: The student section painters and a group of seniors cheer on the football team with various chants and movements throughout the evening.

NEWS

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Students have mixed reactions to the new laws pertaining to phone use while driving, which took effect throughout the entire state over the summer.

Laws ban any use of phones for drivers under age of 21

BY MALLORY MCCAULEY
Online Editor

In an attempt to ward off the possibility of accidents, Indiana has put in place a new law, stating that no driver under the age of 21 may use their cellular device for any purpose except to dial 911. This law also includes the use of hands-free devices, sparking controversy among those affected.

"It's kind of ridiculous that hands-free devices are being restricted as well," Brooke Perry (12) said. "A hands-free device requires the same amount of attention that changing the radio station, volume or turning on your turn signals does."

The new driver laws came into effect on July 1. This law, now extended to drivers of age 21, had previously only covered drivers to the age of 18.

Before enactment of the updated laws, Indiana had only mandated texting and driving to be illegal, but this new law furthers the limits on phone use and also places restrictions on who may be in the car with drivers under 21. Within the first six months that a driver obtains his or her license, they may not have anyone present in the car aside from siblings or individuals over 21.

"Indiana seems to be making a lot of changes when it comes to driving laws," Nick Halbrook (11) said. "The fact that the number of accidents related to phones and other distractions...in the car is being recognized is a step in the right direction."

Though the new law may be seen as harsh, its sole purpose is to help ensure safety of all drivers. This law has also reworked its standards for those who are working towards earning their license through completing the driving log, which documents the number of hours of supervised, practice driving. The law states teens under the age of 18 can now only complete that log with a licensed driver education instructor, certified driver rehabilitation specialist recognized by the Indiana BMV, a licensed driver at least 25 years of age AND related to the teen driver by blood, marriage or legal status or a spouse of the teen driver whom is a licensed driver and at least 21 years of age.

There are countless distractions to drivers while on the road. Whether the distraction is a phone, passengers or even music, Indiana's new driving laws help to ensure driver and passenger safety.

"It's important to realize that just because (drivers) may not necessarily like these new laws, they were put in place for a reason," Halbrook said.

In the midst of the seemingly harsh laws, one aspect of driving has been lightened by these changes: the date at which drivers may receive their license. Once at the age of 16 and 180 days, teens may now obtain their driver's license at the age of 16 and 90 days.

"Without laws like these, though unpopular, driving on the roads wouldn't be as safe," Perry said. "In a way, I'm glad these laws are in place, even though they affect me as a driver."

DEBUNKED: SINKHOLE

MYTH: There is/ was a sinkhole in the parking lot near Door 1.
STATUS: Technically, false.

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Sinkholes occur when soil in the ground is constantly exposed to heavy amounts of water, eroding the rock and minerals in the ground until the material becomes less stable. Over time, this leads to a grand, sudden collapse of the soil, causing infrastructure above to fall with it. This can destroy entire streets or houses, but it is not what happened in the parking lot over the summer.

After a particularly rainy summer, lots of water rushed from the parking lot into the sewers. All of this water started to pull with it dirt from the sides of the storm drain, and after a lot of erosion, the water caused structural collapse to part of the parking lot, but on a small scale.

"The 'suckhole', as some of the guys are calling it, only occurred near the storm drain within, like, five to ten feet of the drain," Park Ginder, principal, said.

Construction was done over the summer in order to fix the issue. It was a minor project, replacing the asphalt with concrete, as well as lining the inner storm drain with cement in order to stop a similar situation from occurring again. The result can be seen on the edge of the sidewalk next to Door 1. There is a small rectangle of concrete surrounding the storm drain that is easily distinguishable from the asphalt of the rest of the parking lot.

Get to know Tuttle: welcoming new SRO

Tuttle named school resource officer after Army service and police training

Quick Facts

Tuttle has been a police officer for one and a half years.

Tuttle has been married for three years and has an eight month old daughter named Madelyn, who he describes as "one of the coolest people" he has met.

Tuttle's favorite movie is "The Avengers."

Tuttle loves all genres of music, but has been listening to Brantley Gilbert and Luke Bryan recently.

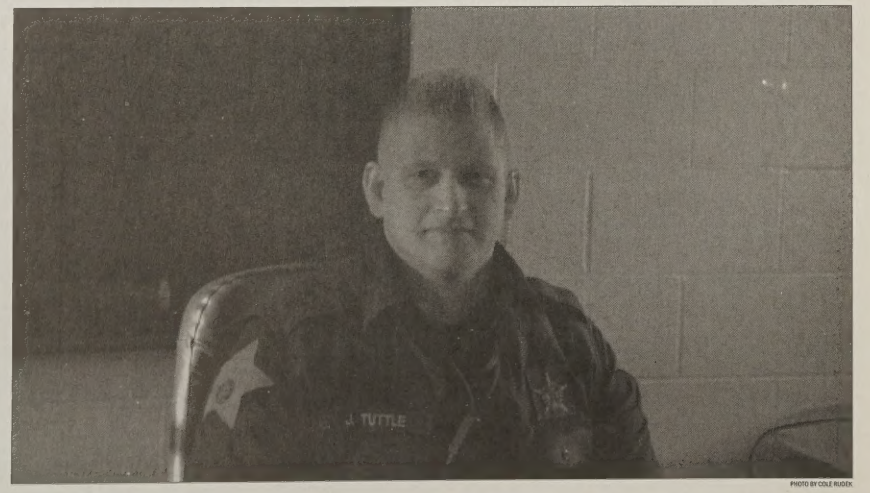


PHOTO BY COLE RUDDY

Tuttle is excited to work at a school where he has noticed a sense of community and a great amount of school spirit in students and staff.

BY MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor

After playing football for the Fort Wayne Firehawks, spending time as a drill sergeant in the army and going through training that involved enduring tasers, pepper spray and a gas chamber, Jesse Tuttle took on on the position of Homestead's new resource officer.

Tuttle has been a police officer for the past year and a half. He has never worked in a school before, but he is excited for the opportunity to work with a "dedicated and hardworking staff." He feels the atmosphere of Homestead is filled with school pride and a sense of community.

Tuttle chose to work in a school because he thinks he can have a bigger impact. He views adults as more "set in their ways," but feels students are adaptable and continuously changing.

"Kids and teenagers are kind of open to help," Tuttle said. "So I feel like I can really help them make the right decisions in life."

Many returning students recall Thor, Homestead's former resource officer's police dog. Students were surprised when they heard that Thor was retiring and Homestead would not have a police dog this year.

However, Tuttle assures the concerned student body that he will get a dog as soon as possible. He is required to go through a two to three month training program, in which the dog must meet high standards and has the potential to fail. He did not have time to do this before starting his job this year, but will hopefully be able to get it done over the upcoming summer. He considers getting a dog to be one of his goals for this school year.

Tuttle is still adapting to some of the procedures at the school. Specifically, he has had to research the program ALICE, and is aware of the benefit of the ALICE drills that are conducted multiple times a year to ensure students are aware of what to do in case of an emergency.

"I don't think (violence in school) is something everyone should sit and worry about, but they should definitely be prepared," Tuttle said.

Tuttle knows firsthand that training is the key to dealing with crises. He believes that if students practice what they would need to do, they are less likely to freeze if the situation were to ever happen.

"With the military and being an officer, (I) get in a lot of high stress situations and the way to get good at dealing with those is training," Tuttle said.

Tuttle's job is to ensure the safety of students at staff at Homestead and to make sure no one is breaking the law.

"(My job) gives me a sense of duty because... if I don't do it, who is going to do it?" Tuttle said.

OPINION

Art classes should be deemed necessary for student growth

Every accomplishment and advancement of mankind has and did include creative thinking of some sort. From the building of the Eiffel Tower to the creation of the scientific method, creativity has been a vital component of innovation. Then of course, art itself has shaken the entire world. From Shakespeare's hundreds of plays and sonnets to Salvador Dali's dare to stretch our perception of reality, these pieces of history catalyzed movements and new ideas which continue to evolve today. Schools should not undervalue the importance of art and creative classes. Not only does art receive inadequate recognition at school, some schools in America cut art out of their curricula completely. If we are at this place in history when innovation and advancement is so greatly stressed and when exhausted workers are in need to de-stress from the turmoil rampant in the world, art classes need to be viewed with higher importance.

A fact of this phenomena where art is, schools are trying to produce creative thinking kids, ready to innovate the world to higher standards, by not valuing creative classes which develops these skills in students. This is a trap, for creative thinking, which art is part of, is actually significant in our lives and essential to develop new skills. There is this tendency to only recognize the benefits of arts in elementary and toddler-age children, and how crucial abstract thinking is in children's development. But the children do not stop growing, and creativity has no limits. There is no reason to how approximately after 3rd grade, approaches to learning need to be less art-based. There is no evidence of disadvantages to the addition of art in a curriculum: only benefits which include higher test scores, higher productivity and an increase of happiness.

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

Here is a quick creative thinking exercise! Finish this sentence: "I am inspired by _____." Compile a list of however numerous sources of inspiration possible. Honestly, do not be afraid to doodle what inspires rather than write in words. Examine the list when done. Chances are, every item on the list is straight from some type of creative process. A song, Monet's water lilies and the Twilight Series are all acts of creation. Sure, if "Nicki Minaj" lands a place on the list, one can stretch that Minaj, or any and every individual, truly is an act of creation. But do not scoff, since Minaj's rhymes and various acts of expression are bases to how she or any individual would inspire another individual. But these things which inspire us are components to our conscious and subconscious minds; they are driving forces within us and have integral impacts on our daily lives. Our lives are driven by what inspires us, weather we want to believe or not. Art has the power to inspire and motivate. There are two reasons art is pitched out of the schoolhouse window: budget cuts, and this fear American students are trailing behind Indian, Russian and Chinese students in science and math. Both reasons to dismiss art as only a frivolous piece of an education point to an under appreciation of the power art holds. There is an irony in schools which decrease art-based learning to increase science scores, for as studies suggest, art actually benefits proficiency in the field.

For example, take this study by The Arts Education Partnership (AEP). In 2002, in a series of over 62 studies and 100 researches, data concluded students who participated in fine arts were greatly proficient at reading, writing and math compared to students who were not receiving any fine arts education.

But the focus of art should not only be to increase achievements in other academic areas, art in its own merit needs to be recognized. A student in an art class can spend a few weeks on a painting, which might only be seen by an art teacher. Art is about expression and developing new ideas, schools can hold several art showcases throughout the year to recognize student artists. Art is a great way to unite and share and collaborate new ideas, and though workforces love the idea of collaboration, the social aspect art brings to the world is immensely beneficial and important. Possibly the greatest gift art has to offer is the ability to bring people together, and engage others to understand different perspectives and recognize the individuality in others. In a school setting, this can be the start of something great.

School spirit goes beyond its colors

Student athletes unfairly limited to only blue and gold on game days

BY ARIKA AKIN
Writer

Athletes are known for their dedication, as well as the colors they wear to play; however, school spirit can only go so far. Athletic teams have always been expected to wear school colors while playing, but while traveling students should be held to a different standard.

That athletes are required to wear school spirit wear to and from games, as well as while practicing, is not a new rule. The difference is that such matters are becoming strictly enforced, and the colors worn now matter. This year, teams have been prohibited from wearing apparel that is not specifically blue and gold on game days.

Students are able to participate in sports teams, and should be able to choose how they show their school spirit. Even if their spirit involves not wearing blue and gold, but instead promotes through other colors, they should be allowed to show it as they see fit.

Athletes that have participated on sports teams in the past already have spirit apparel, and may wish to be able to wear apparel in different colors.

"If you do multiple things here, you've got a closet full of blue and gold, and they want to mix it up," Kent Mitchell, volleyball coach and teacher said. "Homestead's still the name on the shirt no matter what color it is".

Spirit wear is expensive, and students should not be expected to buy more simply for travelling. If an athlete wishes to wear colors to and from games they should feel free to, but they should also not be forced to wear only blue and gold.

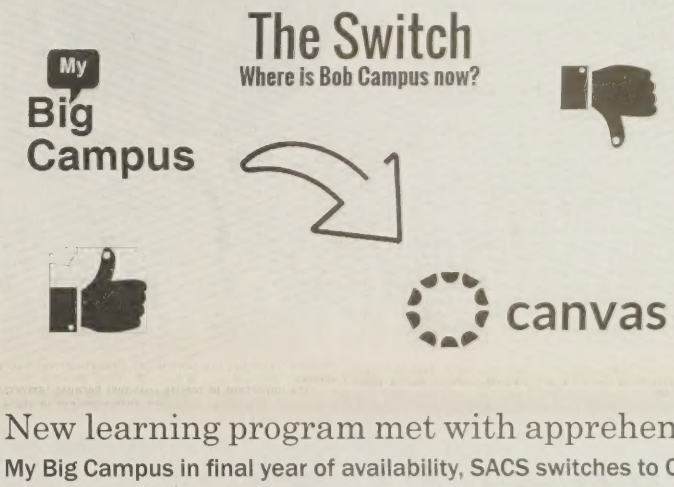
"The players are upset because we pay so much for spirit wear and we want to wear it whenever we like," Anna Zvers (10) said.

Zvers, like other athletes on the volleyball team, is affected by the restrictions already this season, as they wished to wear sweatshirts that have been deemed the incorrect colors.

Other teams have also been prohibited from wearing the apparel not in accordance with the color code.

"Soccer, they like Adidas stuff, but Adidas doesn't make anything in blue and gold, so I've told the people that we buy stuff from, these guys want to wear sweatsuits," Joe Updegrove, athletic director, said. "They're not wearing black on the road anymore".

Though representation of school spirit and image is important, it is possible to show spirit without only wearing blue and gold. Most team apparel either has the word or a specific team name on it. Athletes should have a choice in how they choose to show school spirit while traveling, whether it is through the colors they wear or the logo on the apparel itself.



New learning program met with apprehension

My Big Campus in final year of availability, SACS switches to Canvas

BY EMMA LEININGER
Social Media Manager

As My Big Campus goes into its "senior year," Homestead has transitioned to using a similar program called Canvas. While the switch to a new software is obviously a necessity, as My Big Campus will no longer be available, both teachers and students have mixed emotions about changing from a program that most people had just gotten the hang of using.

For teachers, Canvas "prep classes" or training sessions were available over the summer. However, if teachers were not able to take this opportunity, then they were not able to practice using Canvas until about a week before the beginning of this school year. Not only is this a very minimal amount of time for the teachers to get their information transferred, it also did not give the teachers much time to sort through the new components of Canvas that were not available in My Big Campus.

Due to this, most teachers are still learning how to use the new program. Jim Schmidt, AP U.S. History teacher, found the transition from My Big Campus to Canvas frustrating as he had just recently adjusted to using all of the components of My Big Campus. This is an issue because the students are just being introduced to the site as well, meaning that teachers are not fully capable to help students who may have issues with using Canvas. This has made the newly implanted program more frustrating rather than beneficial.

Also apparent this school year is the lack of a physical handbook. This may not seem like a major issue as the handbook is now conveniently located on our computer desktops, but that handbook also contained passes and a planner, both of which were extremely helpful for the organization and well-being of a student.

The school seems to be under the impression that the calendar option that Canvas offers should be the be-all and end-all of a physical student planner, but most students have decided to purchase a planner as they do not want to take the time to log on to Canvas each time they need to remember an assignment. With the absence of passes, while students may still ask teachers to use the restroom, the teacher must now produce the pass for the student which can be a major inconvenience for the teacher if they happen to be in the middle of a lesson or classroom priority.

Also, teachers such as Megan Grundtisch, Latin I and III teacher, have become aware of the lack of a designated "bundle" option in Canvas. My Big Campus offered a convenient way to group information, assignments, etc. in one location that students could easily find. Teachers have only recently been trained on Canvas' "modules" option, which serves as a more complicated replacement to bundles.

Despite the negative aspects of switching to a new program, many teachers see Canvas as a positive resource for both themselves and the students. Schmidt feels that messages and discussions will be quite easier in Canvas than in My Big Campus. Many teachers also believe that as long as there are no unforeseen complications with Canvas, it will be continued to be used far into the future. Similarly, Grundtisch believes that Canvas will eventually be able to achieve everything My Big Campus did, but in a simpler process.

Canvas offers various pros and cons and has brought multiple changes to the typical school environment. While Canvas could indeed be seen as negative, both students and teachers must unfortunately get used to another new program, because Bob Campus has headed into his senior year and he is not coming back.

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
TESSA VIRGILIO

COPY EDITOR
ETHAN ZWEIG

ONLINE EDITORS
Adam Swiatkowski
Mallory McCauley

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

PHOTOGRAPHER
Pawandeep Bola

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

ADVISER
Terri Nowak

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl
Willow Pierce

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a montly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

NEWS

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Students have mixed reactions to the new laws pertaining to phone use while driving, which took effect throughout the entire state over the summer.

Laws ban any use of phones for drivers under age of 21

BY MALLORY MCCAULEY
Online Editor

In an attempt to ward off the possibility of accidents, Indiana has put in place a new law, stating that no driver under the age of 21 may use their cellular device for any purpose except to dial 911. This law also includes the use of hands-free devices, sparking controversy among those affected.

"It's kind of ridiculous that hands-free devices are being restricted as well," Brooke Perry (12) said. "A hands-free device requires the same amount of attention that changing the radio station, volume or turning on your turn signals does."

The new driver laws came into effect on July 1. This law, now extended to drivers of age 21, had previously only covered drivers to the age of 18.

Before enactment of the updated laws, Indiana had only mandated texting and driving to be illegal, but this new law furthers the limits on phone use and also places restrictions on who may be in the car with drivers under 21. Within the first six months that a driver obtains his or her license, they may not have anyone present in the car aside from siblings or individuals over 21.

"Indiana seems to be making a lot of changes when it comes to driving laws," Nick Halbrook (11) said. "The fact that the number of accidents related to phones and other distractions...in the car is being recognized is a step in the right direction."

Though the new law may be seen as harsh, its sole purpose is to help ensure safety of all drivers. This law has also reworked its standards for those who are working towards earning their license through completing the driving log, which documents the number of hours of supervised, practice driving. The law states teens under the age of 18 can now only complete that log with a licensed driver education instructor, certified driver rehabilitation specialist recognized by the Indiana BMV, a licensed driver at least 25 years of age AND related to the teen driver by blood, marriage or legal status or a spouse of the teen driver whom is a licensed driver and at least 21 years of age.

There are countless distractions to drivers while on the road. Whether the distraction is a phone, passengers or even music, Indiana's new driving laws help to ensure driver and passenger safety.

"It's important to realize that just because (drivers) may not necessarily like these new laws, they were put in place for a reason," Halbrook said.

In the midst of the seemingly harsh laws, one aspect of driving has been lightened by these changes: the date at which drivers may receive their license. Once at the age of 16 and 180 days, teens may now obtain their driver's license at the age of 16 and 90 days.

"Without laws like these, though unpopular, driving on the roads wouldn't be as safe," Perry said. "In a way, I'm glad these laws are in place, even though they affect me as a driver."

DEBUNKED: SINKHOLE

MYTH: There is/ was a sinkhole in the parking lot near Door 1.
STATUS: Technically, false.

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Sinkholes occur when soil in the ground is constantly exposed to heavy amounts of water, eroding the rock and minerals in the ground until the material becomes less stable. Over time, this leads to a grand, sudden collapse of the soil, causing infrastructure above to fall with it. This can destroy entire streets or houses, but it is not what happened in the parking lot over the summer.

After a particularly rainy summer, lots of water rushed from the parking lot into the sewers. All of this water started to pull with it dirt from the sides of the storm drain, and after a lot of erosion, the water caused structural collapse to part of the parking lot, but on a small scale.

"The 'suckhole', as some of the guys are calling it, only occurred near the storm drain within, like, five to ten feet of the drain," Park Ginder, principal, said.

Construction was done over the summer in order to fix the issue. It was a minor project, replacing the asphalt with concrete, as well as lining the inner storm drain with cement in order to stop a similar situation from occurring again. The result can be seen on the edge of the sidewalk next to Door 1. There is a small rectangle of concrete surrounding the storm drain that is easily distinguishable from the asphalt of the rest of the parking lot.

Get to know Tuttle: welcoming new SRO

Tuttle named school resource officer after Army service and police training

Quick Facts

Tuttle has been a police officer for one and a half years.

Tuttle has been married for three years and has an eight month old daughter named Madelyn, who he describes as "one of the coolest people" he has met.

Tuttle's favorite movie is "The Avengers."

Tuttle loves all genres of music, but has been listening to Brantley Gilbert and Luke Bryan recently.

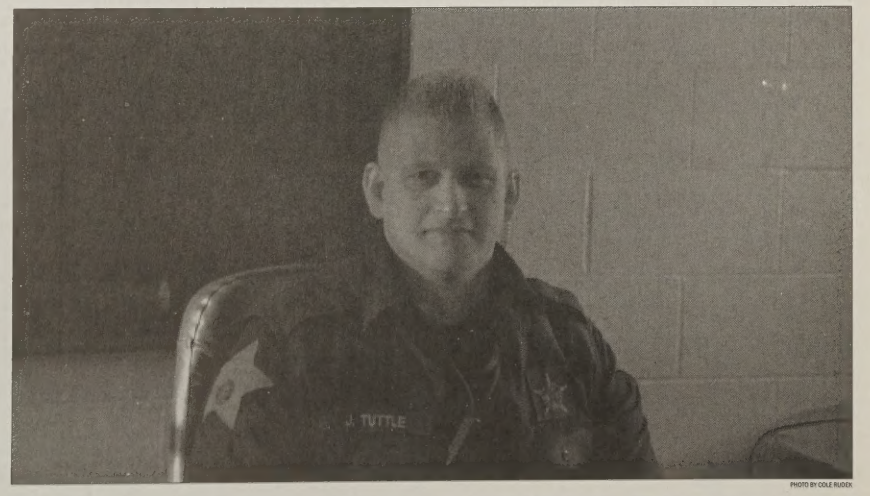


PHOTO BY COLE RUDICK

Tuttle is excited to work at a school where he has noticed a sense of community and a great amount of school spirit in students and staff.

BY MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor

After playing football for the Fort Wayne Firehawks, spending time as a drill sergeant in the army and going through training that involved enduring tasers, pepper spray and a gas chamber, Jesse Tuttle took on on the position of Homestead's new resource officer.

Tuttle has been a police officer for the past year and a half. He has never worked in a school before, but he is excited for the opportunity to work with a "dedicated and hardworking staff." He feels the atmosphere of Homestead is filled with school pride and a sense of community.

Tuttle chose to work in a school because he thinks he can have a bigger impact. He views adults as more "set in their ways," but feels students are adaptable and continuously changing.

"Kids and teenagers are kind of open to help," Tuttle said. "So I feel like I can really help them make the right decisions in life."

Many returning students recall Thor, Homestead's former resource officer's police dog. Students were surprised when they heard that Thor was retiring and Homestead would not have a police dog this year.

However, Tuttle assures the concerned student body that he will get a dog as soon as possible. He is required to go through a two to three month training program, in which the dog must meet high standards and has the potential to fail. He did not have time to do this before starting his job this year, but will hopefully be able to get it done over the upcoming summer. He considers getting a dog to be one of his goals for this school year.

Tuttle is still adapting to some of the procedures at the school. Specifically, he has had to research the program ALICE, and is aware of the benefit of the ALICE drills that are conducted multiple times a year to ensure students are aware of what to do in case of an emergency.

"I don't think (violence in school) is something everyone should sit and worry about, but they should definitely be prepared," Tuttle said.

Tuttle knows firsthand that training is the key to dealing with crises. He believes that if students practice what they would need to do, they are less likely to freeze if the situation were to ever happen.

"With the military and being an officer, (I) get in a lot of high stress situations and the way to get good at dealing with those is training," Tuttle said.

Tuttle's job is to ensure the safety of students at staff at Homestead and to make sure no one is breaking the law.

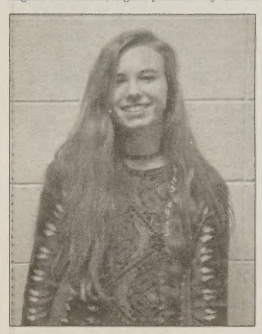
"(My job) gives me a sense of duty because... if I don't do it, who is going to do it?" Tuttle said.

OPINION

Art classes should be deemed necessary for student growth

Every accomplishment and advancement of mankind has and did include creative thinking of some sort. From the building of the Eiffel Tower to the creation of the scientific method, creativity has been a vital component of innovation. Then of course, art itself has shaken the entire world. From Shakespeare's hundreds of plays and sonnets to Salvador Dali's dare to stretch our perception of reality, these pieces of history catalyzed movements and new ideas which continue to evolve today. Schools should not undervalue the importance of art and creative classes. Not only does art receive inadequate recognition at school, some schools in America cut art out of their curricula completely. If we are at this place in history when innovation and advancement is so greatly stressed and when exhausted workers are in need to de-stress from the turmoil rampant in the world, art classes need to be viewed with higher importance.

A fact of this phenomena where art is, schools are trying to produce creative thinking kids, ready to innovate the world to higher standards, by not valuing creative classes which develops these skills in students. This is a trap, for creative thinking, which art is part of, is actually significant in our lives and essential to develop new skills. There is this tendency to only recognize the benefits of arts in elementary and toddler-age children, and how crucial abstract thinking is in children's development. But the children do not stop growing, and creativity has no limits. There is no reason to how approximately after 3rd grade, approaches to learning need to be less art-based. There is no evidence of disadvantages to the addition of art in a curriculum; only benefits which include higher test scores, higher productivity and an increase of happiness.



BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

Here is a quick creative thinking exercise! Finish this sentence: "I am inspired by_____." Compile a list of however numerous sources of inspiration possible. Honestly, do not be afraid to doodle what inspires rather than write in words. Examine the list when done. Chances are, every item on the list is straight from some type of creative process. A song, Monet's water lilies and the Twilight Series are all acts of creation. Sure, if "Nicki Minaj" lands a place on the list, one can stretch that Minaj, or any and every individual, truly is an act of creation. But do not scoff, since Minaj's rhymes and various acts of expression are bases to how she or any individual would inspire another individual. But these things which inspire us are components to our conscious and subconscious minds; they are driving forces within us and have integral impacts on our daily lives. Our lives are driven by what inspires us, weather we want to believe or not. Art has the power to inspire and motivate. There are two reasons art is pitched out of the schoolhouse window; budget cuts, and this fear American students are trailing behind Indian, Russian and Chinese students in science and math. Both reasons to dismiss art as only a frivolous piece of an education point to an under appreciation of the power art holds. There is an irony in schools which decrease art-based learning to increase science scores, for as studies suggest, art actually benefits proficiency in the field.

For example, take this study by The Arts Education Partnership (AEP). In 2002, in a series of over 62 studies and 100 researches, data concluded students who participated in fine arts were greatly proficient at reading, writing and math compared to students who were not receiving any fine arts education.

But the focus of art should not only be to increase achievements in other academic areas, art in its own merit needs to be recognized. A student in an art class can spend a few weeks on a painting, which might only be seen by an art teacher. Art is about expression and developing new ideas, schools can hold several art showcases throughout the year to recognize student artists. Art is a great way to unite and share and collaborate new ideas, and though workforces love the idea of collaboration, the social aspect art brings to the world is immensely beneficial and important. Possibly the greatest gift art has to offer is the ability to bring people together, and engage others to understand different perspectives and recognize the individuality in others. In a school setting, this can be the start of something great.

School spirit goes beyond its colors

Student athletes unfairly limited to only blue and gold on game days

BY ARIKA AKIN
Writer

Athletes are known for their dedication, as well as the colors they wear to play; however, school spirit can only go so far. Athletic teams have always been expected to wear school colors while playing, but while traveling students should be held to a different standard.

That athletes are required to wear school spirit wear to and from games, as well as while practicing, is not a new rule. The difference is that such matters are becoming strictly enforced, and the colors worn now matter. This year, teams have been prohibited from wearing apparel that is not specifically blue and gold on game days.

Students are able to participate in sports teams, and should be able to choose how they show their school spirit. Even if their spirit involves not wearing blue and gold, but instead promotes through other colors, they should be allowed to show it as they see fit.

Athletes that have participated on sports teams in the past already have spirit apparel, and may wish to be able to wear apparel in different colors.

"If you do multiple things here, you've got a closet full of blue and gold, and they want to mix it up," Kent Mitchell, volleyball coach and teacher said. "Homestead's still the name on the shirt no matter what color it is".

Spirit wear is expensive, and students should not be expected to buy more simply for travelling. If an athlete wishes to wear colors to and from games they should feel free to, but they should also not be forced to wear only blue and gold.

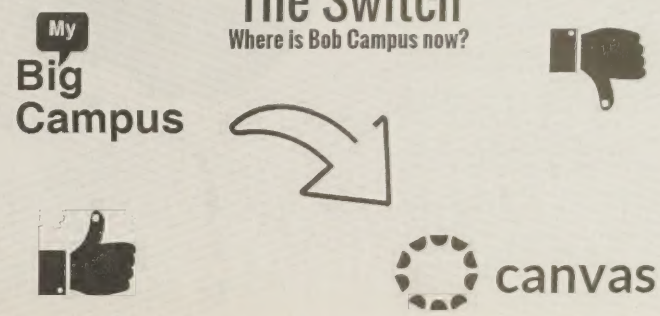
"The players are upset because we pay so much for spirit wear and we want to wear it whenever we like," Anna Zvers (10) said.

Zvers, like other athletes on the volleyball team, is affected by the restrictions already this season, as they wished to wear sweatshirts that have been deemed the incorrect colors.

Other teams have also been prohibited from wearing the apparel not in accordance with the color code.

"Soccer, they like Adidas stuff, but Adidas doesn't make anything in blue and gold, so I've told the people that we buy stuff from, these guys want to wear sweatsuits," Joe Updegrove, athletic director, said. "They're not wearing black on the road anymore".

Though representation of school spirit and image is important, it is possible to show spirit without only wearing blue and gold. Most team apparel either has the word or a specific team name on it. Athletes should have a choice in how they choose to show school spirit while traveling, whether it is through the colors they wear or the logo on the apparel itself.



New learning program met with apprehension

My Big Campus in final year of availability, SACS switches to Canvas

BY EMMA LEININGER
Social Media Manager

As My Big Campus goes into its "senior year," Homestead has transitioned to using a similar program called Canvas. While the switch to a new software is obviously a necessity, as My Big Campus will no longer be available, both teachers and students have mixed emotions about changing from a program that most people had just gotten the hang of using.

For teachers, Canvas "prep classes" or training sessions were available over the summer. However, if teachers were not able to take this opportunity, then they were not able to practice using Canvas until about a week before the beginning of this school year. Not only is this a very minimal amount of time for the teachers to get their information transferred, it also did not give the teachers much time to sort through the new components of Canvas that were not available in My Big Campus.

Due to this, most teachers are still learning how to use the new program. Jim Schmidt, AP U.S. History teacher, found the transition from My Big Campus to Canvas frustrating as he had just recently adjusted to using all of the components of My Big Campus. This is an issue because the students are just being introduced to the site as well, meaning that teachers are not fully capable to help students who may have issues with using Canvas. This has made the newly implanted program more frustrating rather than beneficial.

Also apparent this school year is the lack of a physical handbook. This may not seem like a major issue as the handbook is now conveniently located on our computer desktops, but that handbook also contained passes and a planner, both of which were extremely helpful for the organization and well-being of a student.

The school seems to be under the impression that the calendar option that Canvas offers should be the be-all and end-all of a physical student planner, but most students have decided to purchase a planner as they do not want to take the time to log on to Canvas each time they need to remember an assignment. With the absence of passes, while students may still ask teachers to use the restroom, the teacher must now produce the pass for the student which can be a major inconvenience for the teacher if they happen to be in the middle of a lesson or classroom priority.

Also, teachers such as Megan Grundtisch, Latin I and III teacher, have become aware of the lack of a designated "bundle" option in Canvas. My Big Campus offered a convenient way to group information, assignments, etc. in one location that students could easily find. Teachers have only recently been trained on Canvas' "modules" option, which serves as a more complicated replacement to bundles.

Despite the negative aspects of switching to a new program, many teachers see Canvas as a positive resource for both themselves and the students. Schmidt feels that messages and discussions will be quite easier in Canvas than in My Big Campus. Many teachers also believe that as long as there are no unforeseen complications with Canvas, it will be continued to be used far into the future. Similarly, Grundtisch believes that Canvas will eventually be able to achieve everything My Big Campus did, but in a simpler process.

Canvas offers various pros and cons and has brought multiple changes to the typical school environment. While Canvas could indeed be seen as negative, both students and teachers must unfortunately get used to another new program, because Bob Campus has headed into his senior year and he is not coming back.

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
TESSA VIRGILIO

COPY EDITOR
ETHAN ZWEIG

ONLINE EDITORS
Adam Swiatkowski *Mallory McCauley*

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

PHOTOGRAPHER
Pawandeep Bola

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

ADVISER
Terri Nowak

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl
Willow Pierce

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a montly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

LIFE

Take a glimpse into the lives of students studying in the US

Foreign exchange students give their takes on different surroundings and experiences living abroad

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

One of the foreign exchange students this year is Isak Pierre (11). Pierre is from Brittany, France. Brittany is located in the northwestern corner of France. The schools in France are of course different than the schools in America and he talked about a few of them. The France high schools are a lot smaller than the schools here.

"I know the name of all the students in my high school, and all the persons in my high school in France know who I am. " Pierre said.

The high schools are not only different in size but in the classes they offer. Students are required to do two hours of sports with the high school and also out of school. What appealed to Pierre about school in America is the option of being involved in sports or not.

"Here I cannot do sports which is cool because I don't like sports." Pierre said.

One aspect of the school that he does not like is the school lunch.

"It's not good it's just pizza, hamburgers, and egg sandwiches. (In France) the food is good for the body" Pierre said about the cafeteria food served.

In France, students are allowed to leave school and go to the city to get food, or they can go back to their house and eat if they live close enough. French students often go out with their friends to places in the city or back to someone's house for lunch. The school cafeteria serves entrees and then small food items such as fruit and yogurt after their big meals.

Pierre has traveled other places such as England, but he decided to come to America for these 10 months so that he could experience a place he has never been before.

"In France we think America is very cool." Pierre said.

His main focus while in America is to improve his English speaking ability and to be able to speak fluent English. He also wants to learn about the culture here so when he goes back to France, he can tell his family and friends all about his experience.

Paul Siegmuller (11) is another foreign exchange student this year. He is from Hanau, Germany, which is a town located in Hessen, Germany. As in France, the atmosphere of America is different than it is in Germany. The school hours in Germany are shorter than here; the students are out of school at 1:00 p.m. Because of the shorter hours, some students have private teachers after school to enforce subjects taught in school.

"I have more time to meet my friends and for free time activities," Siegmuller said.

Siegmuller explained how he is involved in many athletic activities. In Germany, he played a variety of sports such as soccer, tennis, dance and karate when he was younger. Now that he is attending school in the United States, he participates in cross country.

The school system in Germany is complex compared to the school system here. The classes are separated in accordance to the quality of grades. In Germany there is a gymnasium, which is not like any gymnasium in the US. Instead, it a separate building for the students with good grades. During fourth grade it is decided whether a student goes to the gymnasium, hauptshule or the realshule, which are the three levels of schooling.

"I was the lucky person and could go to the gymnasium," Siegmuller said.

An unusual difference of American schools compared to Germany's is that there are no drinking fountains there. Siegmuller believes that having drinking fountains available is a smart idea. Compared to his school in Germany, Siegmuller believes Homestead has much stricter security. At his home school, Siegmuller is allowed to leave school during his lunch period; however, he has found Homestead to be more confining.

"It's pretty secured (so) like a jail a little bit," Siegmuller said.

He will stay in America for a year and he is excited to learn about American culture. While not focusing on anything specific, Siegmuller would like to see as much as he can while he is here.

"I love the spirit of the people in America," he said.

Richard "Richie" Holz (11) is another foreign exchange student who is also from Germany. He is from Eastern Germany, some miles away from Berlin. He has a basic teenage life just as teenagers in the US do. He enjoys playing soccer as well as being with friends.

His school system runs with the block schedule, which are 90 minute classes and not every class is attended every day. The biggest difference that he believes is between the two schools is the grading system. A 60% there is a C or a B, not an F like it is here.

"It doesn't matter if you get a 15% or a 50% here you still would get an F which seems weird for me," Richard said.

The difficulty of the assignments and tests here are also different than in Germany. The tasks here are easier than in Germany such as how tests are set up.

"In Germany you have to explain your opinion or answers (compared to here where it's just multiple choice), " Richard said.

As well as the way grades are set up, the lunches are also very different. They are allowed to leave school and eat lunch, which is what a lot of countries have as a school policy. In the cafeteria, they serve mainly four meals: chicken, pork, fish, or pasta. Each day its different but it is always one of those as a main meal.

"I don't get lunch at school, I go somewhere out and get pizza," Richard said.

The two countries overall are not as different as he thought. The main difference is the environment and how people in America live. In Germany there are no suburbs and not as much "green space" around the living area.

While he is here he would like to improve his English and learn about the US culture.

He believes that it is important to learn about how people live here compared to Europe or Germany.

He has traveled to many places such as, Sweden, Norway, Greece, turkey, etc, but this is his first time traveling to the USA.

" It was my wish to come here," Richard said.

Richard so far enjoys high school here and just the atmosphere of America. He feels it is a lot less stressful than in Germany and can see himself living here one day.

Homestead takes the world: Sophia Brown goes global

Sophia Brown talks to Spartana writer Awbrei Vachon about her ten month trip to Italy

Sophia Brown (12) recently returned from her year abroad in Italy and shared her experiences with The Spartana.

SPARTANA: How were you introduced to the foreign exchange program?

BROWN: It kind of just became an idea for me because I really like traveling and I've always wanted to live in a different place since I've lived here my whole life. Nobody I know has really ever done it so it wasn't like a friend of mine did it, my mom and my dad, they never did it, so I kind of just started researching different ideas and different programs and stuff and then I come across the foreign exchange program, and I found the one I liked and I decided to go for it.

SPARTANA: What was the program called?

BROWN: It's called AFS.

SPARTANA: How did you decide it was credible and would be the right program for you?

BROWN: Because I guess I looked at a lot of old blogs and people's experiences through AFS, and I found a lot of good reviews and there's a ton of volunteers in each country for AFS so you know you're going to be taken care of, and there's a lot of students who have gone through it so it's pretty reliable.

SPARTANA: Were you assigned a country or were you able to choose where you wanted to study?

BROWN: I chose Italy because we could do our top choices; my first one was Italy and my (second) one was Spain, and I guess I chose Italy because a few years ago my mom and I visited Italy, just like Rome, Florence, Venice, the typical stuff, and I really liked it and I guess I really enjoyed the culture and how antique of a culture it has and obviously the food.

SPARTANA: How long were you there? Do you have the option to only do a semester or the whole year?

BROWN: I stayed for ten months because I felt like ten months was like the full experience. There's an option to do three months, or 6 months or ten months, and after three months you're kind of just getting into it, you're just learning the language, you're just making friends, and I feel like after half of a year it's now become your life, so I would have rather experienced all of it after I felt comfortable with it which is why I chose the full ten months.

SPARTANA: What were some of your favorite things about Italy?

BROWN: My favorite things would definitely be my friends that I made, for sure like my top favorite thing would be all the people that I met, which is not even just Italians but also from other countries. The other exchange students were definitely all awesome people, as well as the food was delicious.

SPARTANA: What were some of your favorite meals that you had?

BROWN: One of my favorites has to be lasagna, but it was definitely different. Everything was freshly made and really good.

SPARTANA: What were some things you missed about America?

BROWN: I actually missed the American school system just because the one in Italy was so boring, and we went from Monday to Saturday, so that was kind of bad, and I never would've said I would've missed school, but I definitely did miss school. And I missed driving a lot because I wasn't allowed to drive there and that was difficult.

SPARTANA: What lesson, if any, did you take away from the life of a foreign exchange student?

BROWN: I would say that there's just so much out there and there's so many different ways live, or opinions or points of view so don't take everything you think for granted because you're not always right and there's so many other ways to approach things.

SPARTANA: Describe what a typical day in Italy was like for you.

BROWN: A typical day would be waking up around seven, then I would eat breakfast which was always warm milk and cookies, and then I would go to school for five hours, come home and then my host mom would make us lunch, which was huge, lunch was the big meal so it would be like pasta, and then you would have the meat and then you would have the dessert, and after that I would normally take a nap because eating makes me sleepy, and most people do take a nap after lunch, and then after that I would either do homework if I had any or just go hang out with my friends, and then dinner was around ten or 11, and right after dinner I went to sleep.

SPARTANA: What were some things you felt or thought as you got ready to come back to Fort Wayne?

BROWN: Honestly getting ready was just depressing. Because it was like all these people and the new family and the new culture and just the new way of life had become my life and I knew that it was never going to be the same way again. Also the fact of an exchange year, you're never going to have your exchanger again and there's something completely different about the experience of an exchange year, like that's your year to try anything, like you say yes to everything. You're a completely new person in a completely new country, and I just didn't want to have to say goodbye to my friends. My two best friends, I hung out with them every single day and it was really hard to say goodbye to them, so I was definitely not at all looking forward to coming home. It was a pretty sad time.

SPARTANA: What was your host family like?

BROWN: I had a dad who was a lawyer and a mom who was just a stay at home mom, which she actually did a lot of work around the house and keeping everything together, she went to the grocery store every day because everything is fresh, like I said. And then I actually had five host siblings but only two of them lived at home, one was a girl my age and one was 15 years old.

SPARTANA: What was the Italian school system like?

BROWN: We went Monday through Saturday from eight to one, and instead of the kids changing classes, the teachers changed classes, so the kids there have the same exact class for five years for every hour. There's different types of schools, like there's technical schools, there's linguistic, there's scientific and all those different types, so once you get into high school you kind of chose what your focus is, and I went to a linguistic school. The linguistic school, obviously they studied Italian, they studied English, and then they chose two other languages which was between Spanish, German and French and they definitely focused the most on the language like they would have the grammar lesson as well as a speaking lesson

SPARTANA: How is authentic Italian food different from the American portrayal of it is?

BROWN: I would definitely just say freshness. With traditional food, they're really focused on the fact that it's homemade and it's fresh, which I don't think we really focus on here. And there's also some things that is at every Italian restaurant that just isn't Italian. Like you know how we do oil and parmesan and dip our bread in that? That is not an Italian thing at all.

SPARTANA: What are Italian houses like?

BROWN: Most Italian houses are all connected, like what we would think of as an apartment, they would consider a house. I guess because they don't have as much land as we do, everything is connected or stacked on top of each other and they call it a house. But I would just call it like a flat or an apartment.

SPARTANA: What do Italians think of America or Americans?

BROWN: They definitely have some pretty stupid stereotypes. I think it's pretty typical for any European to think that most Americans are stupid and overweight, to be nice about it.

SPARTANA: Did your grades from your classes in Italy transfer back to Homestead?

BROWN: No, nothing transferred back to Homestead. I get no credit. It's a nice thing to put on my application and stuff but I get no actual school credit

SPARTANA: Are you still able to graduate this year?

BROWN: Yeah, because the way it worked out with my credits, I have enough credits with all the classes I'm taking this year and all the previous classes I've taken, I have enough of each credit that I can graduate on time.

SPARTANA: How long did it take you to become fluent in the language and did it make it hard to go to school?

Brown: In the beginning language was definitely a big issue, not even with just going to school but with everything because communicating with your host family when they don't speak English and you don't speak Italian is definitely difficult and scary. And trying to make friends when you don't speak the language, and at school for the first month or two, I kind of just did nothing and just sat there and was insanely bored because I couldn't understand anything so that was definitely a problem but by about Christmas time I felt confident understanding the language and speaking the language.

--Awbrei Vachon

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOPHIA BROWN

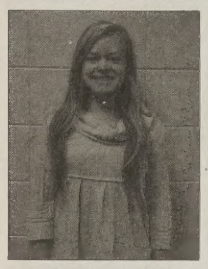
Take advantage of Labor Day freedom and other national holidays

Three-day weekends bring overwhelming feelings of relief and relaxation. For that, we thank national holidays. Only a handful of days throughout the year exempt students from school. Thus, an extra day, sometimes a week or two, of good old fashioned laziness are granted to both deserving and undeserving students.

Despite the fact that most people use these allotted extra day or days to procrastinate, the days off are healthy for students and staff, without a doubt. The human brain cannot survive on an all-work-no-play schedule. It is refreshing to break routine and engage in something not so boring, for lack of a better word. Whether that means laying on the couch catching up on episodes of your favorite TV show, doing some shopping or making plans with friends or family.

No matter what the activity, you can rest assured knowing the majority of students and teachers will find some way to enjoy their day off.

Such was Labor Day. Most fittingly, Labor Day celebrates the citizens of America and all they do to support the country, according to the United States Department of Labor website. Thank you, American Government. For my Labor Day adventures, three of my closest friends and I headed to Pokagon State Park. Located in Angola, the gigantic park offers numerous pastime opportunities from hiking, to horseback riding, to lake activities, or if you visit in the winter, they offer tobogganing--it is worth checking out, believe me.



BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

With all of us either legal adults or legally able to drive (and with our parents' consent, of course), we felt the invigorating surge of pride associated with a teen's new found sense of freedom in the world. So, after piling into the most trustworthy and readily available vehicle, our friend's not-so-hot-rod Pontiac Vibe, we pressed onward for a day full of recreational fun.

After about an hour drive of singing at the top of our lungs, we pulled into the nature park, slowly drove up to the entrance booth, paid the seven dollar park fee and followed the winding road to the almost magical-looking cottage, which both housed and fed residents, as well as provided all the information needed for navigating around the terrain.

The group discussion: it was hot, a whopping 90 degrees, so we would probably want to do the hiking and horseback riding first, and then finish our day off at the beach. With that settled, We ventured up to the reception desk and kindly asked for a brochure regarding the horseback riding activity, which we had opted for doing first.

Somewhat unconventionally, the home address of the people who owned the horses was listed on the brochure, sending us back to the car and a good ten minutes outside of Pokagon before we realized there were not any horses, stables or wide-open fields around us. As our last resort, which should have been our first, we dialed the phone number also listed on the brochure and discovered that the horse barn was inconveniently, in our current situation, inside the park, maybe a full minute away from the cottage.

Laughing it off, we headed back to the park and were able to sign up for the trail ride without any trouble. The ride was a long 45 minutes, and a little bit boring considering everyone fell silent and the only noises were the the rhythmic trod of the horses' hooves on the dirt and the occasional grunt of the tired, hot, massive four-legged creatures. Thus, with the prevailing silence hanging in the air, I devoted my time to imagining myself as a medieval princess galloping through an enchanted forest in protest of my boring life at home, also known as the castle.

The ride eventually came to an end, as did my fanstasy, and we dismounted our trusty steeds, returning them to their proper owners. As time would have it, we were running out of day and had to choose between hiking and beach time. Not surprisingly, we chose the beach.

The breeze was refreshing and the water was the perfect temperature, but before too long, the early evening was upon us and it was time to pile back into the car and make our way home.

With the night rolling to a close, the next morning would bring us back into the normal swing of the school schedule. On the way home I realized how important Labor Day is to American citizens. Although I am only a student now, I will eventually partake in a career. There are so many hardworking people out in the world, and it is essential they are recognized and rewarded for it. So once more, thank you, national holidays. I speak on behalf of the student body when I say we could not make it through the year without you.

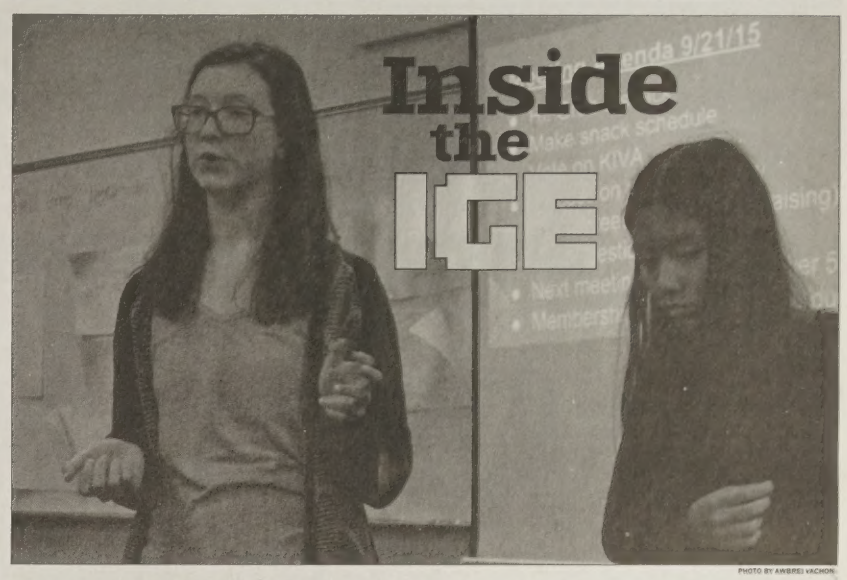


PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

Initiative for Gender Equality raises awareness for gender roles

Matthew Killham
Life Writer

This semester, the school welcomed a new club to its halls: the Initiative for Gender Equality (IGE)While there has been a lot of interest in regards to IGE, there has also been quite a lot of misunderstanding. Many people have no idea what the club actually stands for, or what it will be doing.

"(The basis of the club is to) promote equality for men and women, and the fact that someone's opportunities, rights, interests or abilities should not be restricted in any way by their gender or their sex," Jodi Camino (10) said.

The biggest misconception most people have about feminists is that feminists believe men should be lesser than women, or that feminists want this to happen. However, the ideology of the feminist movement differs from this.

"If you look up the word feminism in the dictionary, it might not be what people usually associate it with," Susan Chen (10) said.

Feminism is defined as "advocating social, political, legal, and economic rights for women equal to those of men," according to Dictionary.com.

Although this is the definition, interpretation can vary. Essentially feminism is women's rights and equality to men, and most feminists would say that feminism also advocates for the rights of transgender men and transgender women, because trans-misogyny is just another form of misogyny, which is just as bad.

In light of all this, IGE hopes to bring awareness to students, and educate everyone on what sexism is, both here in the school, and around the world.

Besides providing education and awareness, the IGE aspires to obtain scholarships from, or make donations to, organizations supporting the equal rights and opportunities of women.

Certain organizations, notably Kiva, provide loans and donations to women in need of some sort of financial assistance. Individuals can donate money that will be repaid as a loan for women in need. Chen has worked with Kiva before, and is hoping to provide a connection with the organization.

Dress for Success is another organization the IGE is considering working alongside.

"Dress for Success is a collection where you can donate gently used or new women's professional clothing and it's for impoverished women who are trying to get job interviews who don't have the resources to get professional clothing that would be suitable for a job interview or for work," Camino said.

The goal of the organization is to provide resources for women who have been victims of discrimination. The purpose of the donations is to give women the supplies they need to become entrepreneurs and break the cycle of poverty, primarily in less privileged areas of the world. IGE also hopes that it can find other local branches of organizations that would be willing to create a partnership with IGE. Such a partnership would provide members of IGE a way to donate and try to help others as an individual.

IGE's biggest goal has is to simply make a difference locally and in a larger area by spreading awareness and education about gender discrimination and gender inequality. Specifically, IGE aims to bring this knowledge to the youth n this area. This spreading knowledge contributes to the growth of the mainstream feminist movement today, and the recognition and awareness of the problems that face women today, both in the United States and third world countries.

"(We want to) just change the perception of gender roles and stereotypes," Camino said.

PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

Ingrid Herriott moves on to fill new career and canine Thor retires

BY EMMA PEARL
Life Writer

With a month of school out of the way, some students may have noticed that everyone's favorite resident pooch is absent along with his partner in crime-cue the waterworks. In other words, Ingrid Herriott, school resource officer (SRO), and her canine Thor are no longer with the school. While some may have noticed their absence, the reasoning behind it is unknown.

"While I had a great time working with all of the staff and getting to knoww the students, it was time for me to move on and get to do a few other things with my career in law enforcement, (and Thor) was wearing down a bit towards the end of last school year," Herriott said via email. "All that sniffing wears a dog out, literally."

The beginning of four significant years with the school started in 2011, when Herriott started her career in the Southwest Allen County Schools district. A year later, Thor joined in.

"The beginning for me was like a shellshock--it's been a long time since I was in high school," Herriott said. "But the longer I was there, the more I enjoyed it. I felt like I got to know a lot of (students) along with the fantastic staff members."

Nana Addo (12) worked in Sylvia Redden's office last year as an assistant and spent time around both Thor and Herriott.

"(Herriott) always seemed to really care about students personally," Addo said.

While Herriott enjoyed her time as the resource officer, she is happy in her new position with the patrol division. However, some may still be wondering what exactly Thor does now that he is not roaming the hallways.

"Thor now spends his days chasing Frisbees and squirrels...that is, when he is not napping," Herriott said. "Recently, he's taken up chasing frogs into our pond, which I am not amused by."

For the members of the SACS District, it has been fairly hard to adjust.

"Everybody is missing Thor and Officer Herriott," Redden said. "When I first returned from summer break it was pretty shocking and very sad. I can't tell you how many people walk through here asking, 'Where's Thor? Where's Officer Herriott? Why is the gate gone?' And it was pretty tough talking about it."

Maybe the transition has been challenging for the school, but it has been the opposite for Thor and Herriott. Having changed schedules around a few times last year, the transition was made easy for them, despite all the things they miss.

"Thor said he misses all the treats and pets from everyone," Herriott said.

Although Herriott and her trusty sidekick Thor have moved on, they will still attend school events to help Jesse Tuttle, the new SRO, maintain proper school security.

"The SRO position is not just (one) any police officer (can) walk in off the street and fill," Herriott said. "It takes a unique kind of person who's willing to make the connections that are necessary to be successful."

Redden, though missing Herriott and Thor, looks forward to the years to come with Tuttle.

"We were in great hands with Thor and Officer Herriott, and now with Officer Tuttle we'll have nothing to worry about," Redden said.

LIFE

Take a glimpse into the lives of students studying in the US

Foreign exchange students give their takes on different surroundings and experiences living abroad

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

One of the foreign exchange students this year is Isak Pierre (11). Pierre is from Brittany, France. Brittany is located in the northwestern corner of France. The schools in France are of course different than the schools in America and he talked about a few of them. The France high schools are a lot smaller than the schools here.

"I know the name of all the students in my high school, and all the persons in my high school in France know who I am. " Pierre said.

The high schools are not only different in size but in the classes they offer. Students are required to do two hours of sports with the high school and also out of school. What appealed to Pierre about school in America is the option of being involved in sports or not.

"Here I cannot do sports which is cool because I don't like sports." Pierre said.

One aspect of the school that he does not like is the school lunch.

"It's not good it's just pizza, hamburgers, and egg sandwiches. (In France) the food is good for the body" Pierre said about the cafeteria food served.

In France, students are allowed to leave school and go to the city to get food, or they can go back to their house and eat if they live close enough. French students often go out with their friends to places in the city or back to someone's house for lunch. The school cafeteria serves entrees and then small food items such as fruit and yogurt; after their big meals.

Pierre has traveled other places such as England, but he decided to come to America for these 10 months so that he could experience a place he has never been before.

"In France we think America is very cool." Pierre said.

His main focus while in America is to improve his English speaking ability and to be able to speak fluent English. He also wants to learn about the culture here so when he goes back to France, he can tell his family and friends all about his experience.

Paul Siegmuller (11) is another foreign exchange student this year. He is from Hanau, Germany, which is a town located in Hessen, Germany. As in France, the atmosphere of America is different than it is in Germany. The school hours in Germany are shorter than here; the students are out of school at 1:00 p.m. Because of the shorter hours, some students have private teachers after school to enforce subjects taught in school.

"I have more time to meet my friends and for free time activities," Siegmuller said.

Siegmuller explained how he is involved in many athletic activities. In Germany, he played a variety of sports such as soccer, tennis, dance and karate when he was younger. Now that he is attending school in the United States, he participates in cross country.

The school system in Germany is complex compared to the school system here. The classes are separated in accordance to the quality of grades. In Germany there is a gymnasium, which is not like any gymnasium in the US. Instead, it a separate building for the students with good grades. During fourth grade it is decided whether a student goes to the gymnasium, hauptshule or the realshule, which are the three levels of schooling.

"I was the lucky person and could go to the gymnasium," Siegmuller said.

An unusual difference of American schools compared to Germany's is that there are no drinking fountains there. Siegmuller believes that having drinking fountains available is a smart idea. Compared to his school in Germany, Siegmuller believes Homestead has much stricter security. At his home school, Siegmuller is allowed to leave school during his lunch period; however, he has found Homestead to be more confining.

"It's pretty secured (so) like a jail a little bit," Siegmuller said.

He will stay in America for a year and he is excited to learn about American culture. While not focusing on anything specific, Siegmuller would like to see as much as he can while he is here.

"I love the spirit of the people in America," he said.

Richard "Richie" Holz (11) is another foreign exchange student who is also from Germany. He is from Eastern Germany, some miles away from Berlin. He has a basic teenage life just as teenagers in the US do. He enjoys playing soccer as well as being with friends.

His school system runs with the block schedule, which are 90 minute classes and not every class is attended every day. The biggest difference that he believes is between the two schools is the grading system. A 60% there is a C or a B, not an F like it is here.

"It doesn't matter if you get a 15% or a 50% here you still would get an F which seems weird for me," Richard said.

The difficulty of the assignments and tests here are also different than in Germany. The tasks here are easier than in Germany such as how tests are set up.

"In Germany you have to explain your opinion or answers (compared to here where it's just multiple choice), " Richard said.

As well as the way grades are set up, the lunches are also very different. They are allowed to leave school and eat lunch, which is what a lot of countries have as a school policy. In the cafeteria, they serve mainly four meals: chicken, pork, fish, or pasta. Each day its different but it is always one of those as a main meal.

"I don't get lunch at school, I go somewhere out and get pizza," Richard said.

The two countries overall are not as different as he thought. The main difference is the environment and how people in America live. In Germany there are no suburbs and not as much "green space" around the living area.

While he is here he would like to improve his English and learn about the US culture.

He believes that it is important to learn about how people live here compared to Europe or Germany.

He has traveled to many places such as, Sweden, Norway, Greece, turkey, etc, but this is his first time traveling to the USA.

" It was my wish to come here," Richard said.

Richard so far enjoys high school here and just the atmosphere of America. He feels it is a lot less stressful than in Germany and can see himself living here one day.

Homestead takes the world: Sophia Brown goes global

Sophia Brown talks to Spartana writer Awbrei Vachon about her ten month trip to Italy

Sophia Brown (12) recently returned from her year abroad in Italy and shared her experiences with The Spartana.

SPARTANA: How were you introduced to the foreign exchange program?

BROWN: It kind of just became an idea for me because I really like traveling and I've always wanted to live in a different place since I've lived here my whole life. Nobody I know has really ever done it so it wasn't like a friend of mine did it, my mom and my dad, they never did it, so I kind of just started researching different ideas and different programs and stuff and then I come across the foreign exchange program, and I found the one I liked and I decided to go for it.

SPARTANA: What was the program called?

BROWN: It's called AFS.

SPARTANA: How did you decide it was credible and would be the right program for you?

BROWN: Because I guess I looked at a lot of old blogs and people's experiences through AFS, and I found a lot of good reviews and there's a ton of volunteers in each country for AFS so you know you're going to be taken care of, and there's a lot of students who have gone through it so it's pretty reliable.

SPARTANA: Were you assigned a country or were you able to choose where you wanted to study?

BROWN: I chose Italy because we could do our top choices: my first one was Italy and my (second) one was Spain, and I guess I chose Italy because a few years ago my mom and I visited Italy, just like Rome, Florence, Venice, the typical stuff, and I really liked it and I guess I really enjoyed the culture and how antique of a culture it has and obviously the food.

SPARTANA: How long were you there? Do you have the option to only do a semester or the whole year?

BROWN: I stayed for ten months because I felt like ten months was like the full experience. There's an option to do three months, or 6 months or ten months, and after three months you're kind of just getting into it, you're just learning the language, you're just making friends, and I feel like after half of a year it's now become your life, so I would have rather experienced all of it after I felt comfortable with it which is why I chose the full ten months.

SPARTANA: What were some of your favorite things about Italy?

BROWN: My favorite things would definitely be my friends that I made, for sure like my top favorite thing would be all the people that I met, which is not even just Italians but also from other countries. The other exchange students were definitely all awesome people, as well as the food was delicious.

SPARTANA: What were some of your favorite meals that you had?

BROWN: One of my favorites has to be lasagna, but it was definitely different. Everything was freshly made and really good.

SPARTANA: What were some things you missed about America?

BROWN: I actually missed the American school system just because the one in Italy was so boring, and we went from Monday to Saturday, so that was kind of bad, and I never would've said I would've missed school, but I definitely did miss school. And I missed driving a lot because I wasn't allowed to drive there and that was difficult.

SPARTANA: What lesson, if any, did you take away from the life of a foreign exchange student?

BROWN: I would say that there's just so much out there and there's so many different ways live, or opinions or points of view so don't take everything you think for granted because you're not always right and there's so many other ways to approach things.

SPARTANA: Describe what a typical day in Italy was like for you.

BROWN: A typical day would be waking up around seven, then I would eat breakfast which was always warm milk and cookies, and then I would go to school for five hours, come home and then my host mom would make us lunch, which was huge, lunch was the big meal so it would be like pasta, and then you would have the meat and then you would have the dessert, and after that I would normally take a nap because eating makes me sleepy, and most people do take a nap after lunch, and then after that I would either do homework if I had any or just go hang out with my friends, and then dinner was around ten or 11, and right after dinner I went to sleep.

SPARTANA: What were some things you felt or thought as you got ready to come back to Fort Wayne?

BROWN: Honestly getting ready was just depressing. Because it was like all these people and the new family and the new culture and just the new way of life had become my life and I knew that it was never going to be the same way again. Also the fact of an exchange year, you're never going to have your exchanger again and there's something completely different about the experience of an exchange year, like that's your year to try anything, like you say yes to everything. You're a completely new person in a completely new country, and I just didn't want to have to say goodbye to my friends. My two best friends, I hung out with them every single day and it was really hard to say goodbye to them, so I was definitely not at all looking forward to coming home. It was a pretty sad time.

SPARTANA: What was your host family like?

BROWN: I had a dad who was a lawyer and a mom who was just a stay at home mom, which she actually did a lot of work around the house and keeping everything together, she went to the grocery store every day because everything is fresh, like I said. And then I actually had five host siblings but only two of them lived at home, one was a girl my age and one was 15 years old.

SPARTANA: What was the Italian school system like?

BROWN: We went Monday through Saturday from eight to one, and instead of the kids changing classes, the teachers changed classes, so the kids there have the same exact class for five years for every hour. There's different types of schools, like there's technical schools, there's linguistic, there's scientific and all those different types, so once you get into high school you kind of chose what your focus is, and I went to a linguistic school. The linguistic school, obviously they studied Italian, they studied English, and then they chose two other languages which was between Spanish, German and French and they definitely focused the most on the language like they would have the grammar lesson as well as a speaking lesson

SPARTANA: How is authentic Italian food different from the American portrayal of it is?

BROWN: I would definitely just say freshness. With traditional food, they're really focused on the fact that it's homemade and it's fresh, which I don't think we really focus on here. And there's also some things that is at every Italian restaurant that just isn't Italian. Like you know how we do oil and parmesan and dip our bread in that? That is not an Italian thing at all.

SPARTANA: What are Italian houses like?

BROWN: Most Italian houses are all connected, like what we would think of as an apartment, they would consider a house. I guess because they don't have as much land as we do, everything is connected or stacked on top of each other and they call it a house. But I would just call it like a flat or an apartment.

SPARTANA: What do Italians think of America or Americans?

BROWN: They definitely have some pretty stupid stereotypes. I think it's pretty typical for any European to think that most Americans are stupid and overweight, to be nice about it.

SPARTANA: Did your grades from your classes in Italy transfer back to Homestead?

BROWN: No, nothing transferred back to Homestead. I get no credit. It's a nice thing to put on my application and stuff but I get no actual school credit

SPARTANA: Are you still able to graduate this year?

BROWN: Yeah, because the way it worked out with my credits, I have enough credits with all the classes I'm taking this year and all the previous classes I've taken, I have enough of each credit that I can graduate on time.

SPARTANA: How long did it take you to become fluent in the language and did it make it hard to go to school?

Brown: In the beginning language was definitely a big issue, not even with just going to school but with everything because communicating with your host family when they don't speak English and you don't speak Italian is definitely difficult and scary. And trying to make friends when you don't speak the language, and at school for the first month or two, I kind of just did nothing and just sat there and was insanely bored because I couldn't understand anything so that was definitely a problem but by about Christmas time I felt confident understanding the language and speaking the language.

--Awbrei Vachon

PHOTO COURTESY OF SOPHIA BROWN

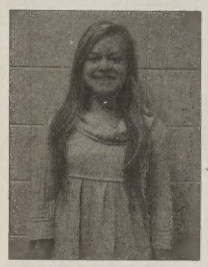
Take advantage of Labor Day freedom and other national holidays

Three-day weekends bring overwhelming feelings of relief and relaxation. For that, we thank national holidays. Only a handful of days throughout the year exempt students from school. Thus, an extra day, sometimes a week or two, of good old fashioned laziness are granted to both deserving and undeserving students.

Despite the fact that most people use these allotted extra day or days to procrastinate, the days off are healthy for students and staff, without a doubt. The human brain cannot survive on an all-work-no-play schedule. It is refreshing to break routine and engage in something not-so-boring, for lack of a better word. Whether that means laying on the couch catching up on episodes of your favorite TV show, doing some shopping or making plans with friends or family.

No matter what the activity, you can rest assured knowing the majority of students and teachers will find some way to enjoy their day off.

Such was Labor Day. Most fittingly, Labor Day celebrates the citizens of America and all they do to support the country, according to the United States Department of Labor website. Thank you, American Government. For my Labor Day adventures, three of my closest friends and I headed to Pokagon State Park. Located in Angola, the gigantic park offers numerous pastime opportunities from hiking, to horseback riding, to lake activities, or if you visit in the winter, they offer tobogganing--it is worth checking out, believe me.



BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

With all of us either legal adults or legally able to drive (and with our parents' consent, of course), we felt the invigorating surge of pride associated with a teen's new found sense of freedom in the world. So, after piling into the most trustworthy and readily available vehicle, our friend's not-so-hot-rod Pontiac Vibe, we pressed onward for a day full of recreational fun.

After about an hour drive of singing at the top of our lungs, we pulled into the nature park, slowly drove up to the entrance booth, paid the seven dollar park fee and followed the winding road to the almost magical-looking cottage, which both housed and fed residents, as well as provided all the information needed for navigating around the terrain.

The group discussion- it was hot, a whopping 90 degrees, so we would probably want to do the hiking and horseback riding first, and then finish our day off at the beach. With that settled, We ventured up to the reception desk and kindly asked for a brochure regarding the horseback riding activity, which we had opted for doing first.

Somewhat unconventionally, the home address of the people who owned the horses was listed on the brochure, sending us back to the car and a good ten minutes outside of Pokagon before we realized there were not any horses, stables or wide-open fields around us. As our last resort, which should have been our first, we dialed the phone number also listed on the brochure and discovered that the horse barn was inconveniently, in our current situation, inside the park, maybe a full minute away from the cottage.

Laughing it off, we headed back to the park and were able to sign up for the trail ride without any trouble. The ride was a long 45 minutes, and a little bit boring considering everyone fell silent and the only noises were the the rhythmic trod of the horses' hooves on the dirt and the occasional grunt of the tired, hot, massive four-legged creatures. Thus, with the prevailing silence hanging in the air, I devoted my time to imagining myself as a medieval princess galloping through an enchanted forest in protest of my boring life at home, also known as the castle.

The ride eventually came to an end, as did my fanstasy, and we dismounted our trusty steeds, returning them to their proper owners. As time would have it, we were running out of day and had to choose between hiking and beach time. Not surprisingly, we chose the beach.

The breeze was refreshing and the water was the perfect temperature, but before too long, the early evening was upon us and it was time to pile back into the car and make our way home.

With the night rolling to a close, the next morning would bring us back into the normal swing of the school schedule. On the way home I realized how important Labor Day is to American citizens. Although I am only a student now, I will eventually partake in a career. There are so many hardworking people out in the world, and it is essential they are recognized and rewarded for it. So once more, thank you, national holidays. I speak on behalf of the student body when I say we could not make it through the year without you.

PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

Initiative for Gender Equality raises awareness for gender roles

Matthew Killham
Life Writer

This semester, the school welcomed a new club to its halls: the Initiative for Gender Equality (IGE)While there has been a lot of interest in regards to IGE, there has also been quite a lot of misunderstanding. Many people have no idea what the club actually stands for, or what it will be doing.

"(The basis of the club is to) promote equality for men and women, and the fact that someone's opportunities, rights, interests or abilities should not be restricted in any way by their gender or their sex," Jodi Camino (10) said.

The biggest misconception most people have about feminists is that feminists believe men should be lesser than women, or that feminists want this to happen. However, the ideology of the feminist movement differs from this.

"If you look up the word feminism in the dictionary, it might not be what people usually associate it with," Susan Chen (10) said.

Feminism is defined as "advocating social, political, legal, and economic rights for women equal to those of men," according to Dictionary.com.

Although this is the definition, interpretation can vary. Essentially feminism is women's rights and equality to men, and most feminists would say that feminism also advocates for the rights of transgender men and transgender women, because trans-misogyny is just another form of misogyny, which is just as bad.

In light of all this, IGE hopes to bring awareness to students, and educate everyone on what sexism is, both here in the school, and around the world.

Besides providing education and awareness, the IGE aspires to obtain scholarships from, or make donations to, organizations supporting the equal rights and opportunities of women.

Certain organizations, notably Kiva, provide loans and donations to women in need of some sort of financial assistance. Individuals can donate money that will be repaid as a loan for women in need. Chen has worked with Kiva before, and is hoping to provide a connection with the organization.

Dress for Success is another organization the IGE is considering working alongside.

"Dress for Success is a collection where you can donate gently used or new women's professional clothing and it's for impoverished women who are trying to get job interviews who don't have the resources to get professional clothing that would be suitable for a job interview or for work," Camino said.

The goal of the organization is to provide resources for women who have been victims of discrimination. The purpose of the donations is to give women the supplies they need to become entrepreneurs and break the cycle of poverty, primarily in less privileged areas of the world. IGE also hopes that it can find other local branches of organizations that would be willing to create a partnership with IGE. Such a partnership would provide members of IGE a way to donate and try to help others as an individual.

IGE's biggest goal has is to simply make a difference locally and in a larger area by spreading awareness and education about gender discrimination and gender inequality. Specifically, IGE aims to bring this knowledge to the youth n this area. This spreading knowledge contributes to the growth of the mainstream feminist movement today, and the recognition and awareness of the problems that face women today, both in the United States and third world countries.

"(We want to) just change the perception of gender roles and stereotypes," Camino said.

PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

Ingrid Herriott moves on to fill new career and canine Thor retires

BY EMMA PEARL
Life Writer

With a month of school out of the way, some students may have noticed that everyone's favorite resident pooch is absent along with his partner in crime--cue the waterworks. In other words, Ingrid Herriott, school resource officer (SRO), and her canine Thor are no longer with the school. While some may have noticed their absence, the reasoning behind it is unknown.

"While I had a great time working with all of the staff and getting to knoww the students, it was time for me to move on and get to do a few other things with my career in law enforcement, (and Thor) was wearing down a bit towards the end of last school year," Herriott said via email. "All that sniffing wears a dog out, literally."

The beginning of four significant years with the school started in 2011, when Herriott started her career in the Southwest Allen County Schools district. A year later, Thor joined in.

"The beginning for me was like a shellshock--it's been a long time since I was in high school," Herriott said. "But the longer I was there, the more I enjoyed it. I felt like I got to know a lot of (students) along with the fantastic staff members."

Nana Addo (12) worked in Sylvia Redden's office last year as an assistant and spent time around both Thor and Herriott.

"(Herriott) always seemed to really care about students personally," Addo said.

While Herriott enjoyed her time as the resource officer, she is happy in her new position with the patrol division. However, some may still be wondering what exactly Thor does now that he is not roaming the hallways.

"Thor now spends his days chasing Frisbees and squirrels...that is, when he is not napping," Herriott said. "Recently, he's taken up chasing frogs into our pond, which I am not amused by."

For the members of the SACS District, it has been fairly hard to adjust.

"Everybody is missing Thor and Officer Herriott," Redden said. "When I first returned from summer break it was pretty shocking and very sad. I can't tell you how many people walk through here asking, 'Where's Thor? Where's Officer Herriott? Why is the gate gone?' And it was pretty tough talking about it."

Maybe the transition has been challenging for the school, but it has been the opposite for Thor and Herriott. Having changed schedules around a few times last year, the transition was made easy for them, despite all the things they miss.

"Thor said he misses all the treats and pets from everyone," Herriott said.

Although Herriott and her trusty sidekick Thor have moved on, they will still attend school events to help Jesse Tuttle, the new SRO, maintain proper school security.

"The SRO position is not just (one) any police officer (can) walk in off the street and fill," Herriott said. "It takes a unique kind of person who's willing to make the connections that are necessary to be successful."

Redden, though missing Herriott and Thor, looks forward to the years to come with Tuttle.

"We were in great hands with Thor and Officer Herriott, and now with Officer Tuttle we'll have nothing to worry about," Redden said.

SPORTS

Football team takes on a new conference for 2015 season

Players adjust to new opponents in the Summit Athletic Conference, Carroll follows to remain in conference

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Drew Keszei (11) leads the Spartans onto the field before the Homecoming game against Carroll High School Chargers. The Chargers entered the SAC for the first time this year, also coming from the NHC.

BY WILLOW PIERCE
Writer

"Football is football and talent is talent," Robert Griffin III, Washington Redskins quarterback, said. "But the mindset of your team makes all the difference."

The Spartans have the talent and the mindset to take on the changes that have come to the team.

Playing in a different conference this year, the football team has new competition from around the state. After the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) disbanded last April, the team joined the Summit Athletic Conference (SAC), which consists of eight other schools including Bishop Dwenger, Bishop Luers, Concordia Lutheran, Northside, Northrop, Snider, Southside and Wayne.

Both the Spartans and the Carroll Chargers accepted invitations into the conference earlier this year.

Originally named the Fort Wayne City Series, SAC is a sports conference that covers several sports, most notably football, soccer and basketball, although most other sports are involved as well. It was founded in 1934 with Catholic, Central Catholic, Northside and Southside being the four starters, and was then added on by the others until it reached the current ten schools that it has now.

Northside, whom the Spartans defeated during the second football game of the season, holds the record for the most conference championship wins for football in the SAC history at nineteen, while Bishop Luers holds the most state championships at eleven for football out of the schools who participate in SAC.

Besides the change in competition, another large part of the new conference is the change in the distribution of funds for the team.

This year, because of the new conference, half of the funds made at the game for home games will be given to the opposing team. Spartan athletics will receive half of the funds made at an away game.

Many of the players on the team think that the new conference provides a good challenge for the team.

"SAC has been fun so far and our team is pretty good this year," Thomas Shultz (10) said.

This year the team can meet all of their goals, such as moving on past the first round of sectionals.

"I think Carroll is our biggest competition," Shultz said.

Along with football, several other school sports will most likely be joining SAC over the next few years.

Makenna Hostetler breaks school golf record while leading team

Hostetler talks about preparations for matches, motivations and goals for sectional win and state run

Makenna Hostetler (10) is more than an average golf player; she was bred for this sport. With a life that seems to progressively revolve around a putting green or driving range, Hostetler's commitment to the sport hasn't just earned her another varsity patch for her second year at Homestead; her talent and dedication are now a part of the school's history, as she just broke a school record that had been held for 10 years for shooting the lowest score on a 9-hole course. The Spartana had the privilege of talking to Hostetler to see how her golf career has become so successful, and what her goals are for this season and her future as a competitor.

SPARTANA: When did you start playing golf and how did you get into it?

HOSTETLER: I started playing when I was young...probably seven or eight years old. My dad introduced me to it [by taking] me out to the course, and I started to like it a lot. When I was little I kind of played just for my dad's sake, but then when I started improving, I began to enjoy it more.

SPARTANA: What is the most important thing about your golf game, and how do you prepare on the day of a match?

HOSTETLER: The most important part is probably short game, because if you have a bad shot, you can make up for it. I usually come an hour before tee-time to warm up before a match and hit balls.

SPARTANA: How long have you been on varsity and how has your past year on the team affected this year?

HOSTETLER: I've been on varsity freshman and sophomore year so far, and being on varsity makes me want to work harder so I don't lose the position. I think it just helps everyone as a team work harder to accomplish our goal.

SPARTANA: What is your favorite memory from golfing with Homestead?

HOSTETLER: As a freshman, going to regionals was pretty cool, and getting second in sectionals was awesome too.

SPARTANA: Where do you see yourself as well as your team advancing this year?

HOSTETLER: I definitely see us having a good chance of going to state this year because we have a really strong group of girls; we have a strong bond, and we all try to compete to try and accomplish our personal best every match.

SPARTANA: Who do you think is your biggest motivation and why?

HOSTETLER: A lot of people influence me. My team and my coach really motivate me to do my best, and my parents and family as well.

SPARTANA: What was your initial reaction when you found out you broke the school record?

HOSTETLER: I knew I'd shot really well. 3 under par was the best I'd ever done. When we got off the course the coach was like 'yeah, okay, I think the school record was 34. I think you just beat it by one stroke' and I was like 'oh my gosh, that's awesome!' I didn't even think that I could break that.

SPARTANA: What are your personal goals now that you've broken a school record?

HOSTETLER: I just want to continue to get better every match. We really want to get to state this year, and that's one of my personal goals this year, and winning sectionals and regionals would be good too.

Hostetler plans to continue improving with the rest of the team as the season progresses in order to achieve their ambitious goals for the 2015 season, and with hard work, they are looking like they could go deep into this postseason.

--Mary Landrigan

PHOTO BY MARY LANDRIGAN

Hostetler practicing at the driving range for future tournaments, hoping to improve her score in preparation for a run at state.

FOOTBALL

The football team is expecting great things out of the season. The guys are in a new conference now, and plan to do just as well this year as they did last year. One of the biggest strengths the team has this year is their chemistry, which should improve their playing overall. The team only has four home games this season because of the new conference, so they want to make the games as great as possible. Everyone should come out to all of the home games and give the guys as much support as they can get, and even try to get out to some of the away games. Remember, Carroll is the only team in the school's conference that hasn't changed, and the team is hoping for a great turnout!

VOLLEYBALL

The season for the Homestead volleyball team has started out relatively well, some highs and lows as every team faces, but all three teams are fighting hard for their wins and learning from their losses. Paige Eakright (12) has shown herself to be a leader for the varsity team, playing all-around. A younger starter on varsity is Elise Wilcox (10) who has taken on the role of the varsity setter, otherwise known as the quarterback of a volleyball team. The girls' goal this year is to make is to State, as last year they made it to regionals. Their next game is against Carroll High School, at Carroll, on Oct. 1, so everyone be sure to come out and support the girls at their biggest game yet!

TENNIS

The tennis team is already well into this year's season, and they're doing remarkably well, as they have beat all of the Fort Wayne teams. Currently fifth place in the state, the guys are led by the varsity players, such as Ben Ekdahl (12), Jordan Andrews (11), and Will Milne (10). An exceptional freshman this year is David Heiney, who is expected to bring great things to the team for the years to come.Their biggest competition this season is Carroll, Leo, and Carmel High School. The team this year is small but mighty, thirty players total with only seven on varsity. Their next match is today, Sep. 25, at Carmel for anyone who can make it out! Saturday's match is against Center Grove.

Summer conditioning proves stressful for student athletes and does not guarantee a spot on final rosters for fall sports

Summer conditioning is one of the only set of words guaranteed to make a student athlete cringe. However, those with the dedication continually participate in every summer practice or conditioning session. While the summer sessions do improve the athlete's skill, this doesn't guarantee them a secure spot on the team. This means every year a handful of student athletes will spend their entire summer vacation getting up early and spending long days working towards something that won't even pay off for them at the end of the summer.

A day of conditioning can go two ways: One, the athlete wakes up early in the morning and sleepily runs through whatever their coach has planned for them, and then they go back to sleep until they have to wake up again. Or there's the second option, they wake up early and sleepily run through whatever their coach has planned, fall asleep again until noon, and then go back to conditioning for another three or four hours. All student athletes know what this is, that is a promise . Just mention the words 'two-a-days' and they'll most likely look terrified. Whatever the technicalities, their day is either entirely consumed, or at least mostly consumed, by their sport.

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

This sounds like it would be at least somewhat worth it, because the athlete will be able to spend the rest of the school season on a team that they love, playing a sport that they love just as much.

Right? Not right, because this is not guaranteed every time. It could be, but the coaches always have to make their dreaded cuts at the end of every tryout, and the beginning of every season. A coach will tell a player that if they want a spot on the team, they have to come to all, or close to all of the summer sessions. This puts even more pressure on the athlete to dedicate all of their time to the sport they play.

While a coach will be watching the players for however long the conditioning sessions last, there will always be the dreaded day or two of tryouts to finish everything off. This is about the time coaches start emphasizing the importance of stats, or statistics. A player could do well all summer long but if they have a bad day or two and their stats are thrown off, they have a significantly lower chance of making that team. Stats are used by coaches to test a player's dependability and their average skill. An example is volleyball. Stats are taken on serves and passes (pass is a more sophisticated word for bump, if anyone is confused.) Serving stats tell the coach how many serves were made into the correct place on the court out of a certain number. Passes are slightly different. They are individually graded on a one to three scale, and averaged out to give each player one passing number. All of the volleyball girls were terrified to see their stats during tryouts week, because no one will ever have a perfect percentage.

> "A player could do well all summer long but if they have a bad day or two and their stats are thrown off, they have a significantly lower chance of making that team."

Tryouts are simply a competition to see who can screw up less than everyone else. As coach Kent Mitchell says , volleyball is a game of mistakes.

While stats are a great way to see how a player does under intense and terrifying pressure, coaches should still be spending more time looking at the big picture. Instead of focusing on what the player did that one or two days, why not think back to all the work they put in during the summer to improve just so they could play on the team?

Now this doesn't mean anyone who shows up all summer deserves a spot. It also depends on how that player presents themselves, to their coaches and their fellow competitors. If a player shows up and has a bad attitude all summer and puts no effort into any of the drills, chances are they are going to get cut.

The problem is, these people who do not show any real motivation during conditioning may happen to be the better players on the team. This is a disadvantage to the people who work their butts off every day and try their very hardest to make the team, but they just aren't at the skill level as some of the other players.

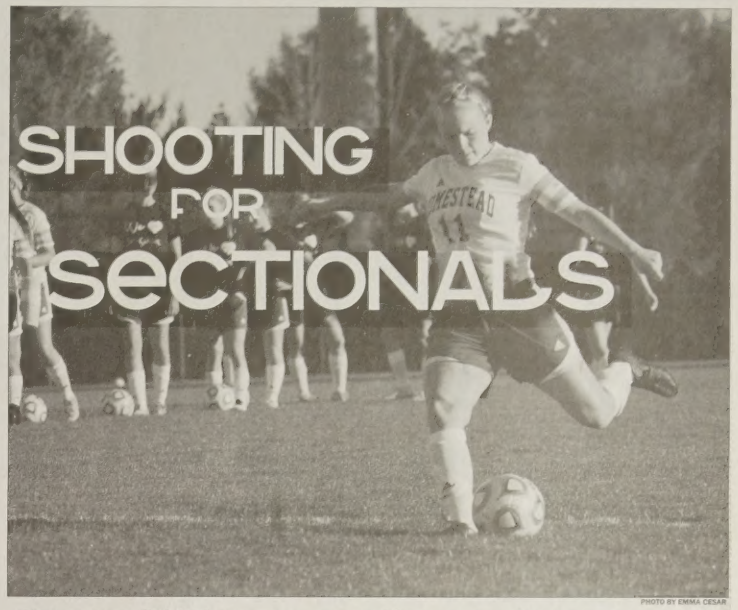


PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

Girls soccer fights for post-season with strong underclassmen at helm

BY ADAM SWIATKOWSKI
Online Editor

The girls soccer team's season is fully underway, and the girls have enjoyed success across the past two months while competing against notable opponents in their new conference-less season. Led by a strong senior class with several returning varsity members, the girls exhibit a good amount of skill as well as leadership and teamwork.

"Being on varsity has given me a lot of exposure to how the captains and seniors have always lead and how (I have) always looked up to them," Isabel Wells (12) said. "That is how I want to be to the freshmen and sophomore girls, and I know there is a lot of pressure with that. I personally want to be more positive (with the team) so the rest of the team stays positive."

Senior leadership is always a strong component to a successful season but the presence from underclassmen on the varsity team is a good tool for the team now as well as in the future.

"(Being on varsity last year) has made me feel more connected with the girls and able to play better with them as a team since we understand each other," Alyssa Couch (10) said.

A concern for this season was the girls' transition between coaches, with Rick Link taking over varsity after a long stint as junior varsity coach. The girls have had to make adjustments to playing under a new coach and changes in style, although understanding has risen and the team is gradually getting stronger.

"We're having some trouble adapting to (our changed formation) and we struggle with transitions and getting up or getting back on defense," Wells said. "But I do like the way (Link) has been coaching us because he is more straightforward and tells it how it is, and the improvements will come soon."

The team has had to adjust to a new formation and chemistry within the group, and in practice have begun to fine tune their game and work on tactics to combat other teams, with a major effort put on adopting an offensive mindset while playing. With 10 goals to her name, Morgan Halliwill (9) is leading scorer and Wells leads assists with seven, but the team feels there is still room for improvement.

"I think that we are playing a better game together and we are improving from earlier this year," Couch said. "We are stronger and (have been) focusing on attacking and going up with an offensive game rather than staying back in the defensive end. Our main focus now is possession and working up the field."

With September coming to a close, the postseason is once again right around the corner and thus the girls have begun to think of postseason aspirations and getting into the championship season mindset.

"We can definitely beat the teams in our sectionals (such as Columbia City, Concordia and Huntington North) but they will be really competitive and pretty equal competition with us," Wells said. "If we get past those we will play the (Indianapolis) teams like Fishers that we have already been playing this (whole season) and so we'll know what they're about, and I think our team will put up a pretty good fight."

PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

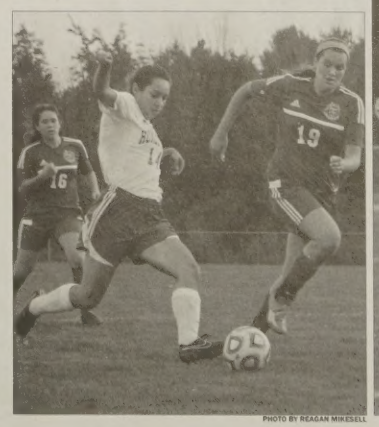


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

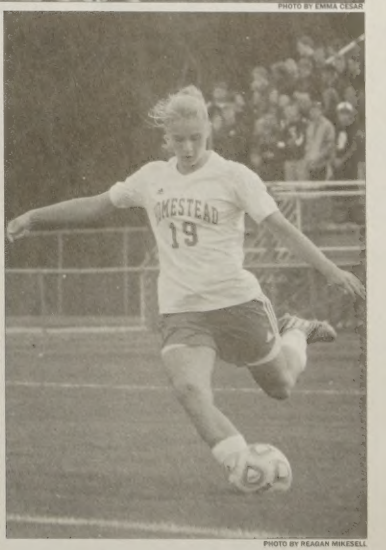


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

TOP: Hannah Dolfuss (12) takes the ball down the field. ABOVE: The girls look over on their teammates during the game against rival Carroll. BELOW: Natalia Torrez (11) attempts to guard the ball from a Canterbury deffender. RIGHT: Alyssa Couch (10) passes across the field. The Carroll game was also denoted as senior night for the girls soccer team, recognizing fourth-year students' commitment to the Spartan athletics program.

SPORTS

Football team takes on a new conference for 2015 season

Players adjust to new opponents in the Summit Athletic Conference, Carroll follows to remain in conference

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Drew Keszel (11) leads the Spartans onto the field before the Homecoming game against Carroll High School Chargers. The Chargers entered the SAC for the first time this year, also coming from the NHC.

BY WILLOW PIERCE
Writer

"Football is football and talent is talent," Robert Griffin III, Washington Redskins quarterback, said. "But the mindset of your team makes all the difference."

The Spartans have the talent and the mindset to take on the changes that have come to the team.

Playing in a different conference this year, the football team has new competition from around the state. After the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) disbanded last April, the team joined the Summit Athletic Conference (SAC), which consists of eight other schools including Bishop Dwenger, Bishop Luers, Concordia Lutheran, Northside, Northrop, Snider, Southside and Wayne.

Both the Spartans and the Carroll Chargers accepted invitations into the conference earlier this year.

Originally named the Fort Wayne City Series, SAC is a sports conference that covers several sports, most notably football, soccer and basketball, although most other sports are involved as well. It was founded in 1934 with Catholic, Central Catholic, Northside and Southside being the four starters, and was then added on by the others until it reached the current ten schools that it has now.

Northside, whom the Spartans defeated during the second football game of the season, holds the record for the most conference championship wins for football in the SAC history at nineteen, while Bishop Luers holds the most state championships at eleven for football out of the schools who participate in SAC.

Besides the change in competition, another large part of the new conference is the change in the distribution of funds for the team.

This year, because of the new conference, half of the funds made at the game for home games will be given to the opposing team. Spartan athletics will receive half of the funds made at an away game.

Many of the players on the team think that the new conference provides a good challenge for the team.

"SAC has been fun so far and our team is pretty good this year," Thomas Shultz (10) said.

This year the team can meet all of their goals, such as moving on past the first round of sectionals.

"I think Carroll is our biggest competition," Shultz said.

Along with football, several other school sports will most likely be joining SAC over the next few years.

Makenna Hostetler breaks school golf record while leading team

Hostetler talks about preparations for matches, motivations and goals for sectional win and state run

Makenna Hostetler (10) is more than an average golf player; she was bred for this sport. With a life that seems to progressively revolve around a putting green or driving range, Hostetler's commitment to the sport hasn't just earned her another varsity patch for her second year at Homestead; her talent and dedication are now a part of the school's history, as she just broke a school record that had been held for 10 years for shooting the lowest score on a 9-hole course. The Spartana had the privilege of talking to Hostetler to see how her golf career has become so successful, and what her goals are for this season and her future as a competitor.

SPARTANA: When did you start playing golf and how did you get into it?

HOSTETLER: I started playing when I was young...probably seven or eight years old. My dad introduced me to it [by taking] me out to the course, and I started to like it a lot. When I was little I kind of played just for my dad's sake, but then when I started improving, I began to enjoy it more.

SPARTANA: What is the most important thing about your golf game, and how do you prepare on the day of a match?

HOSTETLER: The most important part is probably short game, because if you have a bad shot, you can make up for it. I usually come an hour before tee-time to warm up before a match and hit balls.

SPARTANA: How long have you been on varsity and how has your past year on the team affected this year?

HOSTETLER: I've been on varsity freshman and sophomore year so far, and being on varsity makes me want to work harder so I don't lose the position. I think it just helps everyone as a team work harder to accomplish our goal.

SPARTANA: What is your favorite memory from golfing with Homestead?

HOSTETLER: As a freshman, going to regionals was pretty cool, and getting second in sectionals was awesome too.

SPARTANA: Where do you see yourself as well as your team advancing this year?

HOSTETLER: I definitely see us having a good chance of going to state this year because we have a really strong group of girls; we have a strong bond, and we all try to compete to try and accomplish our personal best every match.

SPARTANA: Who do you think is your biggest motivation and why?

HOSTETLER: A lot of people influence me. My team and my coach really motivate me to do my best, and my parents and family as well.

SPARTANA: What was your initial reaction when you found out you broke the school record?

HOSTETLER: I knew I'd shot really well. 3 under par was the best I'd ever done. When we got off the course the coach was like 'yeah, okay, I think the school record was 34. I think you just beat it by one stroke' and I was like 'oh my gosh, that's awesome!' I didn't even think that I could break that.

SPARTANA: What are your personal goals now that you've broken a school record?

HOSTETLER: I just want to continue to get better every match. We really want to get to state this year, and that's one of my personal goals this year, and winning sectionals and regionals would be good too.

Hostetler plans to continue improving with the rest of the team as the season progresses in order to achieve their ambitious goals for the 2015 season, and with hard work, they are looking like they could go deep into this postseason.

--Mary Landrigan

PHOTO BY MARY LANDRIGAN

Hostetler practicing at the driving range for future tournaments, hoping to improve her score in preparation for a run at state.

FOOTBALL

The football team is expecting great things out of the season. The guys are in a new conference now, and plan to do just as well this year as they did last year. One of the biggest strengths the team has this year is their chemistry, which should improve their playing overall. The team only has four home games this season because of the new conference, so they want to make the games as great as possible. Everyone should come out to all of the home games and give the guys as much support as they can get, and even try to get out to some of the away games. Remember, Carroll is the only team in the school's conference that hasn't changed, and the team is hoping for a great turnout!

VOLLEYBALL

The season for the Homestead volleyball team has started out relatively well, some highs and lows as every team faces, but all three teams are fighting hard for their wins and learning from their losses. Paige Eakright (12) has shown herself to be a leader for the varsity team, playing all-around. A younger starter on varsity is Elise Wilcox (10) who has taken on the role of the varsity setter, otherwise known as the quarterback of a volleyball team. The girls' goal this year is to make is to State, as last year they made it to regionals. Their next game is against Carroll High School, at Carroll, on Oct. 1, so everyone be sure to come out and support the girls at their biggest game yet!

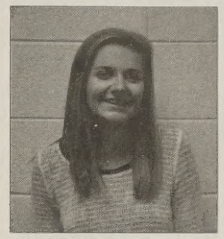
TENNIS

The tennis team is already well into this year's season, and they're doing remarkably well, as they have beat all of the Fort Wayne teams. Currently fifth place in the state, the guys are led by the varsity players, such as Ben Ekdahl (12), Jordan Andrews (11), and Will Milne (10). An exceptional freshman this year is David Heiney, who is expected to bring great things to the team for the years to come.Their biggest competition this season is Carroll, Leo, and Carmel High School. The team this year is small but mighty; thirty players total with only seven on varsity. Their next match is today, Sep. 25, at Carmel for anyone who can make it out! Saturday's match is against Center Grove.

Summer conditioning proves stressful for student athletes and does not guarantee a spot on final rosters for fall sports

Summer conditioning is one of the only set of words guaranteed to make a student athlete cringe. However, those with the dedication continually participate in every summer practice or conditioning session. While the summer sessions do improve the athlete's skill, this doesn't guarantee them a secure spot on the team. This means every year a handful of student athletes will spend their entire summer vacation getting up early and spending long days working towards something that won't even pay off for them at the end of the summer.

A day of conditioning can go two ways: One, the athlete wakes up early in the morning and sleepily runs through whatever their coach has planned for them, and then they go back to sleep until they have to wake up again. Or there's the second option, they wake up early and sleepily run through whatever their coach has planned, fall asleep again until noon, and then go back to conditioning for another three or four hours. All student athletes know what this is, that is a promise . Just mention the words 'two-a-days' and they'll most likely look terrified. Whatever the technicalities, their day is either entirely consumed, or at least mostly consumed, by their sport.



BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

This sounds like it would be at least somewhat worth it, because the athlete will be able to spend the rest of the school season on a team that they love, playing a sport that they love just as much.

Right? Not right, because this is not guaranteed every time. It could be, but the coaches always have to make their dreaded cuts at the end of every tryout, and the beginning of every season. A coach will tell a player that if they want a spot on the team, they have to come to all, or close to all of the summer sessions. This puts even more pressure on the athlete to dedicate all of their time to the sport they play.

While a coach will be watching the players for however long the conditioning sessions last, there will always be the dreaded day or two of tryouts to finish everything off. This is about the time coaches start emphasizing the importance of stats, or statistics. A player could do well all summer long but if they have a bad day or two and their stats are thrown off, they have a significantly lower chance of making that team. Stats are used by coaches to test a player's dependability and their average skill. An example is volleyball. Stats are taken on serves and passes (pass is a more sophisticated word for bump, if anyone is confused.) Serving stats tell the coach how many serves were made into the correct place on the court out of a certain number. Passes are slightly different. They are individually graded on a one to three scale, and averaged out to give each player one passing number. All of the volleyball girls were terrified to see their stats during tryouts week, because no one will ever have a perfect percentage.

> "A player could do well all summer long but if they have a bad day or two and their stats are thrown off, they have a significantly lower chance of making that team."

Tryouts are simply a competition to see who can screw up less than everyone else. As coach Kent Mitchell says , volleyball is a game of mistakes.

While stats are a great way to see how a player does under intense and terrifying pressure, coaches should still be spending more time looking at the big picture. Instead of focusing on what the player did that one or two days, why not think back to all the work they put in during the summer to improve just so they could play on the team?

Now this doesn't mean anyone who shows up all summer deserves a spot. It also depends on how that player presents themselves, to their coaches and their fellow competitors. If a player shows up and has a bad attitude all summer and puts no effort into any of the drills, chances are they are going to get cut.

The problem is, these people who do not show any real motivation during conditioning may happen to be the better players on the team. This is a disadvantage to the people who work their butts off every day and try their very hardest to make the team, but they just aren't at the skill level as some of the other players.

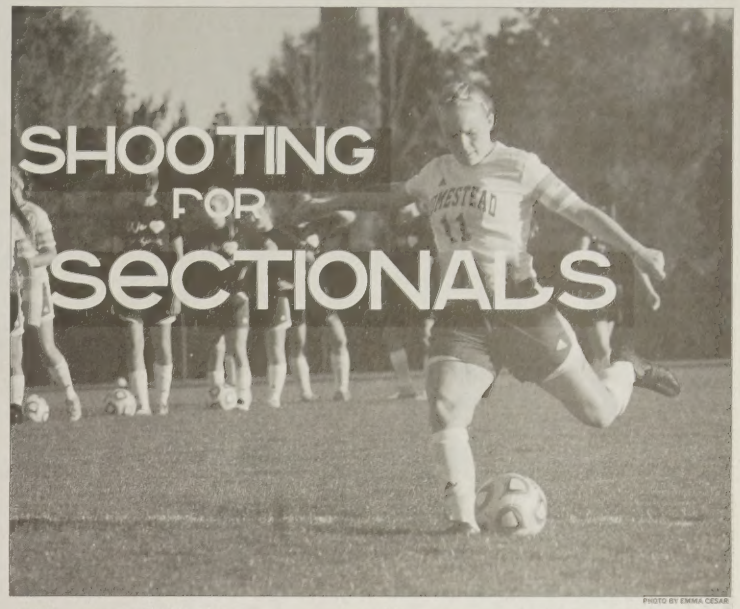


PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

Girls soccer fights for post-season with strong underclassmen at helm

BY ADAM SWIATKOWSKI
Online Editor

The girls soccer team's season is fully underway, and the girls have enjoyed success across the past two months while competing against notable opponents in their new conference-less season. Led by a strong senior class with several returning varsity members, the girls exhibit a good amount of skill as well as leadership and teamwork.

"Being on varsity has given me a lot of exposure to how the captains and seniors have always lead and how (I have) always looked up to them," Isabel Wells (12) said. "That is how I want to be to the freshmen and sophomore girls, and I know there is a lot of pressure with that. I personally want to be more positive (with the team) so the rest of the team stays positive."

Senior leadership is always a strong component to a successful season but the presence from underclassmen on the varsity team is a good tool for the team now as well as in the future.

"(Being on varsity last year) has made me feel more connected with the girls and able to play better with them as a team since we understand each other," Alyssa Couch (10) said.

A concern for this season was the girls' transition between coaches, with Rick Link taking over varsity after a long stint as junior varsity coach. The girls have had to make adjustments to playing under a new coach and changes in style, although understanding has risen and the team is gradually getting stronger.

"We're having some trouble adapting to (our changed formation) and we struggle with transitions and getting up or getting back on defense," Wells said. "But I do like the way (Link) has been coaching us because he is more straightforward and tells it how it is, and the improvements will come soon."

The team has had to adjust to a new formation and chemistry within the group, and in practice have begun to fine tune their game and work on tactics to combat other teams, with a major effort put on adopting an offensive mindset while playing. With 10 goals to her name, Morgan Hallwill (9) is leading scorer and Wells leads assists with seven, but the team feels there is still room for improvement.

"I think that we are playing a better game together and we are improving from earlier this year," Couch said. "We are stronger and (have been) focusing on attacking and going up with an offensive game rather than staying back in the defensive end. Our main focus now is possession and working up the field."

With September coming to a close, the postseason is once again right around the corner and thus the girls have begun to think of postseason aspirations and getting into the championship season mindset.

"We can definitely beat the teams in our sectionals (such as Columbia City, Concordia and Huntington North) but they will be really competitive and pretty equal competition with us," Wells said. "If we get past those we will play the (Indianapolis) teams like Fishers that we have already been playing this (whole season) and so we'll know what they're about, and I think our team will put up a pretty good fight."

PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

TOP: Hannah Dolfuss (12) takes the ball down the field. ABOVE: The girls look over on their teammates during the game against rival Carroll. BELOW: Natalia Torrez (11) attempts to guard the ball from a Canterbury deffender. RIGHT: Alyssa Couch (10) passes across the field. The Carroll game was also denoted as senior night for the girls soccer team, recognizing fourth-year students' commitment to the Spartan athletics program.

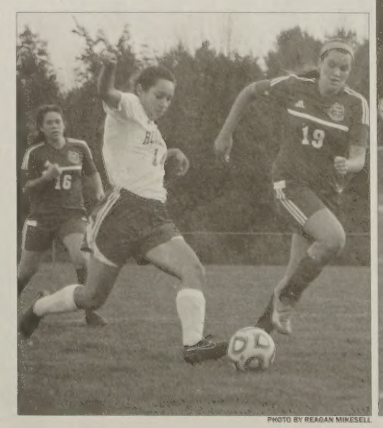


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

HOW DO YOU LIKE THESE APPLES?

Get to know some of the new teachers, making their debut at Homestead for the 2015-2016 school year

DARREN DRAYER

WHICH CLASSES DO YOU TEACH?
ENGLISH 9, ENGLISH 10, AND COMPOSITION
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM?
DETROIT LIONS (THIS IS THEIR YEAR!)
DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL TALENTS?
I ENJOY YODELING. WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS A TALENT IS UP FOR DE
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STRANGE FOOD COMBINATION?
I ONCE TOOK A DARE TO DRINK A HONEY-MUSTARD MILK SHAKE. I EN
WHO IS ONE MUSICIAN YOU LIKE THAT YOU THINK NO ONE ELSE WOU
OF?
DOUG ANDERSON (SINGER – NOT MUSICIAN).

BENJAMIN ROGERS

WHICH CLASSES DO YOU TEACH?
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (DUAL CREDIT), MARKETING (DUAL CREDIT), PERSONAL FINANCE, ACCOUNTING, AND I COORDINATE THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.
WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAMS?
NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL AND CHICAGO CUBS BASEBALL
DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL TALENTS?
I CAN PLAY THE PIANO
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STRANGE FOOD COMBINATION?
NOT A COMBINATION BUT I EAT BLACK OLIVES RIGHT OUT OF THE CAN.
DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SAYING OR PHRASE?
"NOTHING GREAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HOLD BACK."

RAYMOND COLGLAZIER

WHICH CLASSES DO YOU TEACH?
I TEACH INTRO TO BUSINESS, PERSONAL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND WEB DESIGN.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM?
I CAN ONLY MAKE TIME TO WATCH FOOTBALL...OF COURSE. MY FAVORITE TEAM IS THE INDIANAPOLIS COLTS WHO WILL REIGN SUPREME AS SOON AS THEY FIGURE OUT HOW TO RUN THE BALL AND STOP THE RUN.
DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL TALENTS?
NOT REALLY... I SCUBA DIVE AND WATER SKI BUT NOT AT THE SAME TIME.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK YOU'VE EVER READ? "STAND TALL, MOLLY LOU MELON" BY PATTY LOVELL. MY WIFE JUST FOUND THIS BOOK IN A BOX AND I REMEMBER HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF TIMES I READ IT TO MY DAUGHTERS. HOPEFULLY, IT HELPED MAKE THEM THE CONFIDENT KIDS THAT THEY ARE TODAY.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STRANGE FOOD COMBINATION?
CORN WITH A-1 SAUCE.
WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF WORKING AT HOMESTEAD SO FAR? THE STUDENTS OF COURSE! THE STUDENTS HAVE MADE ME FEEL WELCOME AND AT HOME EVEN THOUGH THEY DO NOT KNOW ME WELL YET. SMILES ARE SHARED IN THE HALLWAY. THANK YOU!

JASON BEER

WHICH CLASSES DO YOU TEACH?
I TEACH ENGLISH 10, ENGLISH 12, AND ENGLISH CREDIT RECOVERY
WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAMS?
I FOLLOW THE CUBS, YANKEES, AND DODGERS IN BASEBALL; NOTRE DAME IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL; AND INDIANA UNIVERSITY IN COLLEGE BASKETBALL.
DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL TALENTS?
I'M NOT SURE THEY ARE SPECIAL, BUT I DO WOODWORKING AND CREATIVE WRITING OUTSIDE OF TEACHING. I ALSO PICKED UP LONGBOARDING A FEW SUMMERS AGO AND I'M LEARNING TO PLAY THE BANJO.
DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SAYING OR PHRASE?
SO THIS HAS ESSENTIALLY BEEN MY TEACHING PHILOSOPHY YET I NEVER SAID IT SO WELL (AND I'M ONLY SLIGHTLY EMBARRASSED IT COMES FROM THE NEW CINDERELLA MOVIE). BUT IT IS "HAVE COURAGE AND BE KIND."
WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF WORKING AT HOMESTEAD SO FAR?
THE STUDENTS AND STAFF. THERE IS SUCH A POSITIVE VIBE HERE. PEOPLE ENJOY COMING HERE AND ARE PROUD OF THEIR SCHOOL. BOTH STUDENTS AND STAFF HAVE MADE ME FEEL WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED. I AM GRATEFUL THIS IS MY JOB, THAT THIS IS WHERE I WORK.

PHOTOS BY TESSA VIRGILIO

the SPARTANA

issue two
volume forty five
october 30, 2015
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

INSIDENOW

NEWS Slow laptops diminish school-wide productivity as technology problems rise. Rumors of school dungeon investigated. 2

LIFE Theater department debuts new production. Faculty members race in Boston Marathon after intense training and qualifications. 4

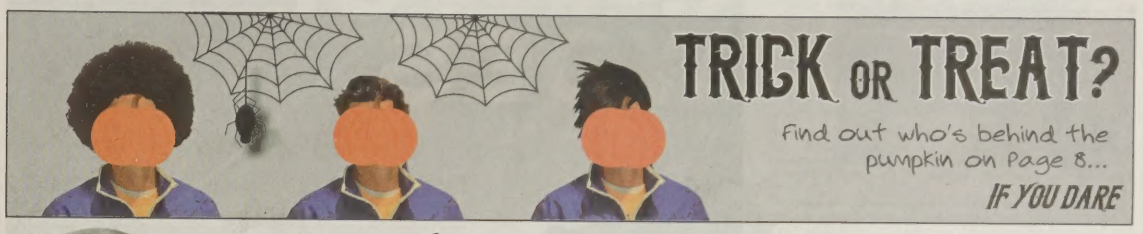
FEATURE Vote for the most wicked wig of HHS as modeled by a surprise guest. 8

OPINION Left and Right: Writers present varying political viewpoints and assess potential candidates for upcoming presidential election. 3

SPORTS Fall sports teams' seasons reflected by post-season statistics. Boys tennis doubles pair moves on to regionals. 6

ONLINE visit www.hhsspartana.com.
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

www.hhsspartana.com A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969



TRICK OR TREAT?

Find out who's behind the pumpkin on Page 8...
IF YOU DARE

GHOST hunting

Teachers leave behind daily classrooms to investigate paranormal activities and haunted places around the country in search of ghosts

BY KYLIE POLING
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Imagine a bonfire with embers floating up into a crisp autumn sky, crackling into the stillness. Imagine someone grabbing a flashlight, shining it onto his or her face. Imagine scoffing at the ghost story being told. Imagine a branch snaps, leaves rustle. Suddenly, you're screaming. What was that? you ask yourself. Was it a ghost? Are these woods haunted? While you might run in fear, Joe Wolter and Dominick Manco, teachers, would have cameras aimed, ready to investigate the unusual, the unnatural, the paranormal.

"When I was a little kid we always sat around a campfire and told ghost stories," Wolter, English teacher, said. "My grandparents would always tell us these really creepy ghost stories and so when I got older I remembered some of them and kind of got more and more interested, reading more about it, watching movies and things of that nature and so it just kind of went on from there."

Pop culture has played a large role in shaping the way the average person thinks of ghosts or other such paranormal entities. To some, though, it harnesses more than just a passing glance.

"I've always been interested in the paranormal, but more recently, horror movies and TV reality shows about ghost hunting really inspired me," Manco, art and photography teacher, said.

Halloween is a holiday of Gaelic origin, historically seen as the day in which the world of the dead and the living overlapped in preparation for the harvest season, according to halloweenhistory.org. Theoretically, ghosts are apparitions of those who are deceased, caught between the living and the dead. While the existence of ghosts is not scientifically proven, investigating such matters raises interesting questions.

"I think that there are things in this world that we can't explain, and so ghosts might be one of those things that we don't know what they are," Wolter said. "It's kind of interesting thinking about what they might be and whether they actually are dead people or other entities or things like that."

Ghost hunting can be as much of a hobby as it is a source of Hollywood exploitation.

"As a skeptic, I see it as a way to keep an open mind and have an adventure," Manco said.

Adventures into the paranormal don't just happen, though. Careful planning and research can go into an endeavor, resulting in extensive research and equipment gathering.

"Research is done into the history of the location, such as any deaths that may have occurred there, as well as any previously reported sightings of unusual activity," Manco said. "There are numerous ghost hunting groups out there that sponsor outings, but if you do your own research, you can find locations and create your own ghost hunting adventure. It's important to schedule with the owners of a location well in advance, and always get permission to go onto someone else's property."

In terms of equipment, Wolter prefers to stick to the basics.

"I don't use a whole lot (of equipment), like the ones you see on television," he said. "I use a digital camera and I use a digital recorder."

Despite only officially ghost hunting a few times, Manco has utilized various forms of equipment during his hunts varying in levels of sophistication.

"Of course you need flashlights," he said, "But I've also used something called a "Spirit Box," which is a radio that randomly scans and stops at certain stations, producing sounds, parts of words, conversations and snippets of music. In addition, it can be helpful to have an Infrared thermometer to measure temperature fluctuations and an EMF reader to read for electromagnetic frequencies."

Once all the necessary equipment is assembled, the hunt can begin.

"A typical hunt for the most part would be like going and getting access to the place (and) taking pictures," Wolter said.

The experience of going on a ghost hunt is similar for the two teachers, as tour guides at a location can offer valuable insight to a place's history or supposed activity.

"(A ghost hunt) typically has involved a group of friends and myself visiting a location and being introduced to the history and background by the owner or a knowledgeable guide, much like you'd see on a TV show," Manco said. "This background information is sometimes helpful to fill in gaps where your research may have come up short. The hunt itself is basically wandering and exploring with equipment and flashlights in hand, taking readings and listening, lots of sitting and listening, and waiting for something to happen."

For Wolter, ghost hunting has become a family affair, including his wife and his daughters.

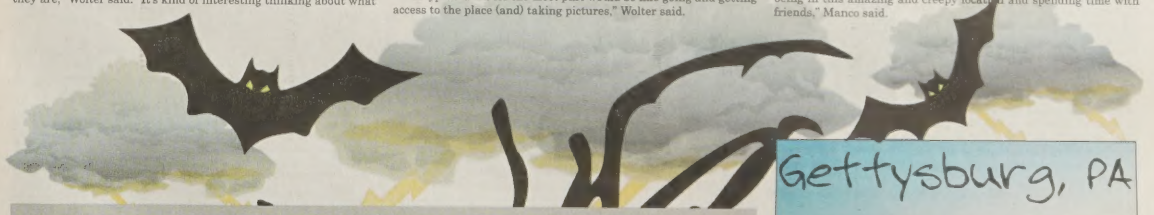
"My wife and I will usually decide (to vacation to) a place that has some ghost or haunted place for the most part," he said. "When we were still dating we would go out to places that were reported to be haunted and she was very interested in it then and we have two kids now and my older daughter is the one who kind of wants to go to an actual haunted house and spend the night. My youngest daughter is still a little too nervous and a little too scared of it, but my older daughter really wants to."

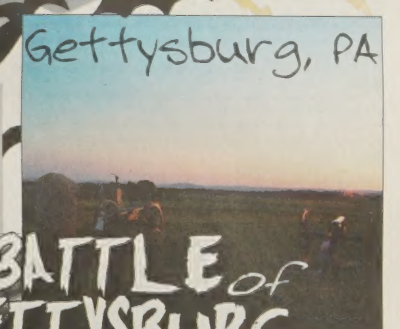
Telling ghost stories keeps English class interesting for Wolter's students, who seem to enjoy the eerie tales.

"My students really like them and I like telling the stories," Wolter said.

While ghost hunting may not be a conventional hobby, there is none more perfectly suited to the pending Hallow's Eve festivities. Teaching by day and hunting by night offers a unique experience unparalleled by the normal: in fact, one could say the experience itself is indeed paranormal.

"Many times nothing ever (happens on a ghost hunt), but that's okay because the fun is the activity of exploring, the feeling you get being in this amazing and creepy location and spending time with friends," Manco said.





"In Gettysburg we were down on some of the battlefields and I actually took a bunch of pictures there on the battlefields—Little Round Top and the Devil's Den and places like that that have a lot of activity supposedly. Gettysburg is the one that really has a lot of supposed energy with so many people being killed there and supposedly there's still a lot of that psychic energy around and so we could feel it, I mean we were there right at dusk, right at dark—and it's open 24 hours—so we actually got to walk around right at night. You get this creepy, creepy feeling. You get these weird, eerie senses and that's when I started snapping pictures and in two of them you can see what looks like at the very edge of the frame what looks like a guy standing there and another one by a cannon you can see a guy wearing a blue shirt and of course since it was a Civil War battle, you think it would be a Union officer." —Wolter

WHISPERS ESTATE

Mitchell, IN

"A group of friends and I spent the night in this old house that was originally owned by a doctor who, it was rumored, did some pretty sketchy things in his medical office which was located inside the house. According to the homes current owner, several bodies and body parts are buried in the back yard. This doctor's young daughter, the story goes, came downstairs one Christmas Eve to sneak a peek at the presents under the tree. This was before electric lighting, and somehow her nightgown caught on fire, and she was badly burned. In fact, parts of the living room are still charred to this day, lending credence to the story. Because her father was a doctor, he attempted to treat her, but she died in her bed upstairs not long after. To this day, her bedroom has become a bit of a shrine, where guests bring the young girl, Rachel, dolls and toys, which sometimes move mysteriously at night. Our only experience with Rachel was through a talking doll on her bed, which spontaneously told us she loved us, then went silent. When we left the room, the doll said, "Night, night!" Needless to say, that was quite unnerving. Others have lived and died in the house over the years, and their ghosts are said to haunt the house as well." —Manco

BATTLE of GETTYSBURG

CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL

Indianapolis, IN

"(Central State Hospital) was a mental hospital up until the 1950s or 1960s and then it was shut down by the Indiana State Police. I went down there and there was a cemetery right across the street from sthe hospital where some of the inmates who had passed away had been buried and I got a picture in there that looks like the figure of a person standing there and it's all speculative." —Wolter

HOW DO YOU LIKE THESE APPLES?

Get to know some of the new teachers, making their debut at Homestead for the 2015-2016 school year

DARREN DRAYER
WHICH CLASSES DO YOU TEACH?
ENGLISH 9, ENGLISH 10, AND COMPOSITION
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM?
DETROIT LIONS (THIS IS THEIR YEAR!)
DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL TALENTS?
I ENJOY YODELING. WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS A TALENT IS UP FOR DE
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STRANGE FOOD COMBINATION?
I ONCE TOOK A DARE TO DRINK A HONEY MUSTARD MILK SHAKE. I
WHO IS ONE MUSICIAN YOU LIKE THAT YOU THINK NO ONE ELSE WO
OF?
DOUG ANDERSON (SINGER - NOT MUSICIAN)
BENJAMIN ROGERS
WHICH CLASSES DO YOU TEACH?
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (DUAL CREDIT), MARKETING (DUAL CREDIT),
PERSONAL FINANCE, ACCOUNTING, AND I COORDINATE THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.
WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAMS?
NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL AND CHICAGO CUBS BASEBALL
DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL TALENTS?
I CAN PLAY THE PIANO
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STRANGE FOOD COMBINATION?
NOT A COMBINATION BUT I EAT BLACK OLIVES RIGHT OUT OF THE CAN.
DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SAYING OR PHRASE?
"NOTHING GREAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HOLD BACK."
RAYMOND COLGLAZIER
WHICH CLASSES DO YOU TEACH?
I TEACH INTRO TO BUSINESS, PERSONAL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND WEB DESIGN.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM?
I CAN ONLY MAKE TIME TO WATCH FOOTBALL. OF COURSE, MY FAVORITE TEAM IS THE
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS WHO WILL REIGN SUPREME AS SOON AS THEY FIGURE OUT HOW TO
RUN THE BALL AND STOP THE RUN.
DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL TALENTS?
NOT REALLY... I SCUBA DIVE AND WATER SKI BUT NOT AT THE SAME TIME.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK YOU'VE EVER READ? "STAND TALL, MOLLY LOU MELON" BY
PATTY LOVELL. MY WIFE JUST FOUND THIS BOOK IN A BOX AND I REMEMBER HOW MANY
THOUSANDS OF TIMES I READ IT TO MY DAUGHTERS. HOPEFULLY, IT HELPED MAKE THEM
THE CONFIDENT KIDS THAT THEY ARE TODAY.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STRANGE FOOD COMBINATION?
CORN WITH A 1 SAUCE.
WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF WORKING AT HOMESTEAD SO FAR? THE STUDENTS OF COURSE!
THE STUDENTS HAVE MADE ME FEEL WELCOME AND AT HOME EVEN THOUGH THEY DO NOT
KNOW ME WELL YET. SMILES ARE SHARED IN THE HALLWAY. THANK YOU!
JASON BEER
WHICH CLASSES DO YOU TEACH?
I TEACH ENGLISH 10, ENGLISH 12, AND ENGLISH CREDIT RECOVERY.
WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAMS?
I FOLLOW THE CUBS, YANKEES, AND DODGERS IN BASEBALL; NOTRE DAME IN
COLLEGE FOOTBALL; AND INDIANA UNIVERSITY IN COLLEGE BASKETBALL.
DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL TALENTS?
I'M NOT SURE THEY ARE SPECIAL, BUT I DO WOODWORKING AND CREATIVE
WRITING OUTSIDE OF TEACHING. I ALSO PICKED UP LONGBOARDING A FEW
SUMMERS AGO AND I'M LEARNING TO PLAY THE BANJO.
DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SAYING OR PHRASE?
SO THIS WAS ESSENTIALLY BEEN MY TEACHING PHILOSOPHY YET I NEVER SAID
IT SO WELL (AND I'M ONLY SLIGHTLY EMBARRASSED IT COMES FROM THE NEW
CINDERELLA MOVIE). BUT IT IS "HAVE COURAGE AND BE KIND."
WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF WORKING AT HOMESTEAD SO FAR?
THE STUDENTS AND STAFF. THERE IS SUCH A POSITIVE VIBE HERE. PEOPLE
ENJOY COMING HERE AND ARE PROUD OF THEIR SCHOOL. BOTH STUDENTS
AND STAFF HAVE MADE ME FEEL WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED. I AM GRATEFUL
THIS IS MY JOB. THAT THIS IS WHERE I WORK.

PHOTOS BY TESSA VIRGILIO

the SPARTANA

issue two
volume forty five
october 30, 2015
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

INSIDENOW

NEWS Slow laptops diminish school-wide productivity as technology problems rise. Rumors of school dungeon investigated. 2

LIFE Theater department debuts new production. Faculty members race in Boston Marathon after intense training and qualifications. 4

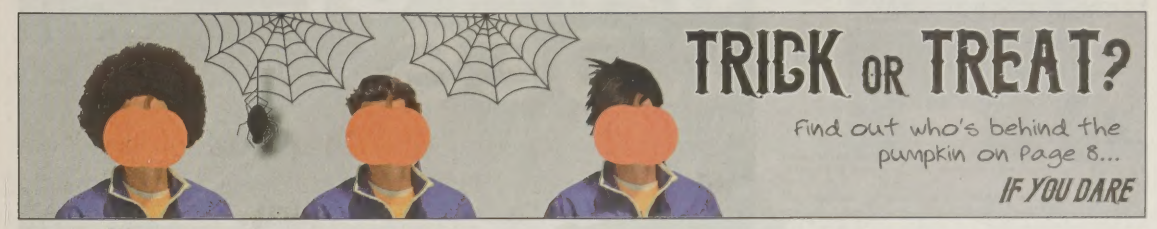
FEATURE Vote for the most wicked wig of HHS as modeled by a surprise guest. 8

OPINION Left and Right: Writers present varying political viewpoints and assess potential candidates for upcoming presidential election. 3

SPORTS Fall sports teams' seasons reflected by post-season statistics. Boys tennis doubles pair moves on to regionals. 6

ONLINE visit www.hhsspartana.com.
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

www.hhsspartana.com A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969



GHOST hunting

Teachers leave behind daily classrooms to investigate paranormal activities and haunted places around the country in search of ghosts

BY KYLIE POLING
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Imagine a bonfire with embers floating up into a crisp autumn sky, crackling into the stillness. Imagine someone grabbing a flashlight, shining it onto his or her face. Imagine scoffing at the ghost story being told. Imagine a branch snaps, leaves rustle. Suddenly, you're screaming. What was that?" you ask yourself. "Was it a ghost? Are these woods haunted?" While you might run in fear, Joe Wolter and Dominick Manco, teachers, would have cameras aimed, ready to investigate the unusual, the unnatural, the paranormal.

"When I was a little kid we always sat around a campfire and told ghost stories," Wolter, English teacher, said. "My grandparents would always tell us these really creepy ghost stories and so when I got older I remembered some of them and kind of got more and more interested, reading more about it, watching movies and things of that nature and so it just kind of went on from there."

Pop culture has played a large role in shaping the way the average person thinks of ghosts or other such paranormal entities. To some, though, it harnesses more than just a passing glance.

"I've always been interested in the paranormal, but more recently, horror movies and TV reality shows about ghost hunting really inspired me," Manco, art and photography teacher, said.

Halloween is a holiday of Gaelic origin, historically seen as the day in which the world of the dead and the living overlapped in preparation for the harvest season, according to halloweenhistory.org. Theoretically, ghosts are apparitions of those who are deceased, caught between the living and the dead. While the existence of ghosts is not scientifically proven, investigating such matters raises interesting questions.

"I think that there are things in this world that we can't explain, and so ghosts might be one of those things that we don't know what they are," Wolter said. "It's kind of interesting thinking about what they might be and whether they actually are dead people or other entities or things like that."

Ghost hunting can be as much of a hobby as it is a source of Hollywood exploitation.

"As a skeptic, I see it as a way to keep an open mind and have an adventure," Manco said.

Adventures into the paranormal don't just happen, though. Careful planning and research can go into an endeavor, resulting in extensive research and equipment gathering.

"Research is done into the history of the location, such as any deaths that may have occurred there, as well as any previously reported sightings of unusual activity," Manco said. "There are numerous ghost hunting groups out there that sponsor outings, but if you do your own research, you can find locations and create your own ghost hunting adventure. It's important to schedule with the owners of a location well in advance, and always get permission to go onto someone else's property."

In terms of equipment, Wolter prefers to stick to the basics.

"I don't use a whole lot (of equipment), like the ones you see on television," he said. "I use a digital camera and I use a digital recorder."

Despite only officially ghost hunting a few times, Manco has utilized various forms of equipment during his hunts varying in levels of sophistication.

"Of course you need flashlights," he said, "But I've also used something called a "Spirit Box," which is a radio that randomly scans and stops at certain stations, producing sounds, parts of words, conversations and snippets of music. In addition, it can be helpful to have an infrared thermometer to measure temperature fluctuations and an EMF reader to read for electromagnetic frequencies."

Once all the necessary equipment is assembled, the hunt can begin.

"A typical hunt for the most part would be like going and getting access to the place (and) taking pictures," Wolter said.

The experience of going on a ghost hunt is similar for the two teachers, as tour guides at a location can offer valuable insight to a place's history or supposed activity.

"(A ghost hunt) typically has involved a group of friends and myself visiting a location and being introduced to the history and background by the owner or a knowledgeable guide, much like you'd see on a TV show," Manco said. "This background information is sometimes helpful to fill in gaps where your research may have come up short. The hunt itself is basically wandering and exploring with equipment and flashlights in hand, taking readings and listening, lots of sitting and listening, and waiting for something to happen."

For Wolter, ghost hunting has become a family affair, including his wife and his daughters.

"My wife and I will usually decide (to vacation to) a place that has some ghost or haunted place for the most part," he said. "When we were still dating we would go out to places that were reported to be haunted and she was very interested in it then and we have two kids now and my older daughter is the one who kind of wants to go to an actual haunted house and spend the night. My youngest daughter is still a little too nervous and a little too scared of it, but my older daughter really wants to."

Telling ghost stories keeps English class interesting for Wolter's students, who seem to enjoy the eerie tales.

"My students really like them and I like telling the stories," Wolter said.

While ghost hunting may not be a conventional hobby, there is none more perfectly suited to the pending Hallow's Eve festivities. Teaching by day and hunting by night offers a unique experience unparalleled by the normal: in fact, one could say the experience itself is indeed paranormal.

"Many times nothing ever (happens on a ghost hunt), but that's okay because the fun is the activity of exploring, the feeling you get being in this amazing and creepy location and spending time with friends," Manco said.

"In Gettysburg we were down on some of the battlefields and I actually took a bunch of pictures there on the battlefields—Little Round Top and the Devil's Den and places like that that have a lot of activity supposedly. Gettysburg is the one that really has a lot of supposed energy with so many people being killed there and supposedly there's still a lot of that psychic energy around and so we could feel it, I mean we were there right at dusk, right at dark—and it's open 24 hours—so we actually got to walk around right at night. You get this creepy, creepy feeling. You get these weird, eerie senses and that's when I started snapping pictures and in two of them you can see what looks like at the very edge of the frame what looks like a guy standing there and another one by a cannon you can see a guy wearing a blue shirt and of course since it was a Civil War battle, you think it would be a Union officer." —Wolter
Gettysburg, PA
BATTLE of GETTYSBURG
WHISPERS ESTATE
Mitchell, IN
"A group of friends and I spent the night in this old house that was originally owned by a doctor who, it was rumored, did some pretty sketchy things in his medical office which was located inside the house. According to the homes current owner, several bodies and body parts are buried in the back yard. This doctor's young daughter, the story goes, came downstairs one Christmas Eve to sneak a peek at the presents under the tree. This was before electric lighting, and somehow her nightgown caught on fire, and she was badly burned. In fact, parts of the living room are still charred to this day, lending credence to the story. Because her father was a doctor, he attempted to treat her, but she died in her bed upstairs not long after. To this day, her bedroom has become a bit of a shrine, where guests bring the young girl, Rachel, dolls and toys, which sometimes move mysteriously at night. Our only experience with Rachel was through a talking doll on her bed, which spontaneously told us she loved us, then went silent. When we left the room, the doll said, "Night, night!" Needless to say, that was quite unnerving. Others have lived and died in the house over the years, and their ghosts are said to haunt the house as well." —Manco
CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL
Indianapolis, IN
"(Central State Hospital) was a mental hospital up until the 1950s or 1960s and then it was shut down by the Indiana State Police. I went down there and there was a cemetery right across the street from sthe hospital where some of the inmates who had passed away had been buried and I got a picture in there that looks like the figure of a person standing there and it's all speculative." —Wolter

NEWS

Class time productivity negatively impacted by technology delays

BY MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor

PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Student displays frustration with school laptops which have caused delays in academic progress due to slow run times.

Students spend most of their time these days waiting for their laptops to catch up to them. From welcome screens that last entire class periods to Google Drive refusing to load, students have noticed a problem with the school computers and the technology team is attempting to fix it.

The technology issues students and staff initially assumed would be resolved quickly have lingered in the classrooms and continue to be a disruption to education.

"I try to work along with the class and I try to be active and if my laptop isn't opening... then I'm actually missing my education," Hannah Parks (10) said. "I'm left doing the assignment during passing period really fast instead of actually doing it with the class."

According to Nicole Detter-Smith, IMC specialist, 40 to 50 laptops are taken down to the IMC daily and, while some problems such as internet and printer connectivity can be resolved quickly, approximately 10 students are given loaners every day. The most common issue students are facing is Google Chrome not working.

"With our Lightspeed filter, they block Chrome because Chrome is like the big universe that we have to keep [students] safe from," Detter-Smith said.

Detter-Smith added that many students come to the IMC anxious because they are unable to access Schoolnet while trying to take a test. Since the technology issues became apparent, teachers have been adapting lesson plans to avoid running into problems with slow laptops.

"With the realization that the problem is bigger than everyone thought, teachers are reacting in a positive way (by) making copies of a handout or a test, just to be prepared in case students can't get logged into Schoolnet," Susan Summers, assistant principal said.

Even with teachers preparing solutions ahead of time, students still spend large amounts of their school day frustrated by the unpredictable laptops.

"There's so much time wasted just not doing anything waiting for the laptops to load," Parks said.

Summers acknowledged that "everyone who works in technology in the district" is working to resolve the issues.

"I know everyone is frustrated because the technology is so exciting and you can do such meaningful work on the laptops," Summers said.

The district's technology team recreates problems students report in order to figure out how to solve them. In the meantime, Detter-Smith advises students to always shut down their laptops between school and home to "retrain the machines to become more efficient."

As a long-term solution, the school is planning to get new laptops for the upcoming school year. According to Summers, the administration is "looking at touchscreen options," as well as more lightweight machines.

"They are getting advice from teachers (about) what they want the laptops to be able to do (and) trying to predict in three years what we will need them to do," Summers said.

Summers believes the goal of using laptops at the school is to train students for the technology they will use in the future.

"We are also trying to replicate what students will need when they go on to their careers," Summers said.

While some students may be discontented with the daily inconvenience of malfunctioning laptops, Summers argues that the technology problems are teaching students "good life skills," specifically patience and learning not to save things to the desktop.

"Because we are in this era where a lot of things are new and everything is increasing in capability so quickly, I think we are going to continue to have problems (and) glitches," Summers said. "A lot valuable life lessons are learned in that frustration."

Band sponsors Fall Festival amid ISSMA preparations

BY MELANA ROSSI
Designer

PHOTO BY KAYLEE YANOVICH

Spartan Alliance Band members perform their show Poiesis.

Flags spinning and instruments jamming, the pride of 292 strong takes the field in their royal blue and black uniforms. Within the first measures of their piece, Poiesis: An Act of Creation, a world filled with beauty and grace, becomes reality.

On Oct. 3, the Homestead High School Spartan Alliance Band performed at the Fall Festival, which hosted 24 different marching bands. Numerous fans came to witness the band perform. This eight minute production consisted of dynamic choreography, solos and artistic structures.

"I think we did really well considering the conditions," Casey Murray (11), drum major, said. "It was rainy, cold and windy." According to Murray, the band executed their production exceptionally.

At the end of the festival, Penn placed first, while Elkhart landed second. Penn's band, the Marching Kingsmen, stole the audience's attention with their unique show, titled Bloom. Combined with mystical dances and strong musical composition, the show started off with woodwinds and percussion.

The Homestead band has earned first place in every category throughout their season.

"I think we have a great chance of winning ISSMA this year," Jessica Sykes (12), flute player, said.

Last year, the band ranked fourth place, but, with new challenging music and difficult choreography, the outcome may be better this year.

"I feel like it's constantly an evolving sort of thing," Rylie Read (12), marimba player, said.

Many band members, along with Read, concur that practice makes perfect. Even though the band seems flawless, there are improvements that need to be made.

"We still need to improve on music, mainly with tone quality," Sykes said.

Once these adjustments are made, the band will improve their performance greatly. They have always been dedicated to performing at their best, whether it is through the blazing heat, the frigid cold or the rain.

DEBUNKED DUNGEON?

Myth: There is an underground dungeon on campus. Status: False.

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Supposedly, the school was built a few miles away from a Russian spy hideout during the Cold War, and several dungeons were built underneath the school, hidden by tunnel systems and soundproof floors.

In the five decades the school has been in existence, there has never been any dungeon or underground room to the school. Not only would a dungeon cause legal issues and upset parents, but it would make detentions interesting.

The real story is that Room 314, across the hall from Student Services, was once a boiler room. In the early years of the school, teachers would usually go to the teacher lounge in order to smoke out of sight of students, per school policy. However, the lounge was built near some classroom, and smoke could be smelled through the walls, and so teachers were forced to smoke elsewhere.

The new smoking spot was a partially submerged boiler room, which is only submerged because it is built between the ramps, so it is level with the cafeteria but slightly lower than the radio studio. Teachers would smoke in this room, farther away from students, but eventually this room was retired after a policy change and the Boiler Collapse of 1982. The new policy banned teachers from smoking on school grounds at all, and so teachers began to get in their cars and drive around the neighborhood, smoking in their cars during their prep periods. They still smelled of smoke after returning to class, though, and the school board has encouraged teachers to simply wait until they are home, or even stop smoking altogether.

Do you have a rumor to disprove or a myth to debunk? Send any suspicious leads to thespartana@gmail.com with a subject line "POSSIBLE DEBUNKED", and your questions might be answered next issue.

Students opting to attend other events over traditional trick-or-treating

Other holiday activities gain prominence in high schoolers' annual halloween plans

BY ARIKA AKIN
Writer

Trick-or-treating, a staple American Halloween activity, is not as popular with teenagers as it is with younger children. It carries a certain stigma about age requirements, and many students choose to avoid going, as they could stick out. Instead, many students go to Halloween parties or to haunted houses.

Although there is no written age limit, most students stop celebrating Halloween by trick-or-treating when they reach their high school years. Some students said that they see no reason to not go.

"I think it makes people happy when they see older kids trick-or-treating; some people are annoyed but some are happy because they're like 'I remember doing that' because youth goes by really quick," Lily Ditton (10) said.

If students themselves do not go trick-or-treating, they can contribute to the Halloween atmosphere by passing out candy. If students wish to pass out candy but do not get many trick-or-treaters at their door, they can participate in the Wild Zoo Halloween at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

Even if students have fond memories of trick-or-treating, they can feel ostracized because of their age, and feel as if it is necessary for them to celebrate in another way.

"I've always been trick-or-treating, so if there's no party, then I'm not gonna go. I'm too old unfortunately," Chloe Isch (10) said.

Ditton, however, says that students should go trick-or-treating, regardless of their age, because "they can hang out with their friends, eat free candy, and dress up like a weirdo."

Students who choose not to go trick-or-treating can celebrate Halloween in different ways, such as watching horror movies or going to haunted houses.

Many people, especially parents, believe that trick-or-treating is not age-dependent.

"As a parent, I think it's fine." Tisha Bowman-Ashby, math teacher and mother of four, said. "My 13 year old wants to go trick-or-treating and I'm totally fine with that, but at his age ... I remember that when going out I was afraid to go to houses because I felt like they wouldn't give me candy because a high schooler was at the door."

If teenagers don't decide to trick-or-treat, there are many other Halloween-themed activities for them to do in Fort Wayne. There are haunted houses within a reasonable distance, and passing out candy can bring joy to trick-or-treaters.

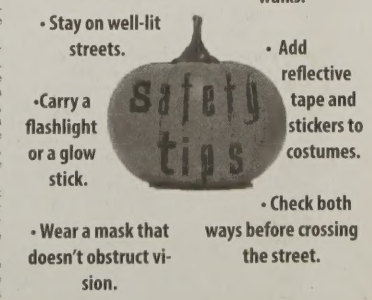
Other teenagers can celebrate halloween by dancing at events like Electric Falloween, which is happening this year on Saturday Oct. 31 it is open to high school students.

"Electric Falloween is just like an event that we're having on halloween night, and it's just like a bunch of music and lights ... it's just a place to go for the night to have fun," Logan Mullinix (12) said.

All throughout October, haunted houses are open in and around Fort Wayne. The Haunted Hotel in Huntington and the Haunted Jail in Columbia City are open, as well as the the Hysterium Haunted Asylum, Haunted Castle, and Black Forest, which are all located in Fort Wayne. All of these attractions are open on Halloween night, and can provide a fun way to celebrate the holiday.

If students feel like they would stick out among younger children while trick-or-treating, they should know that many people who pass out candy are unfazed by the age of trick-or-treaters.

"As a person answering the door, I see an awful lot of high school students come through, which makes me happy," Bowman said. "You're allowed to be kids for as long as you can be."


• Wear bright and reflective costumes.
• Walk on the sidewalks.
• Stay on well-lit streets.
•Carry a flashlight or a glow stick.
safety tips
• Add reflective tape and stickers to costumes.
• Wear a mask that doesn't obstruct vision.
• Check both ways before crossing the street.

OPINION

Tattoos a valuable expression of identity, not to be hidden or stereotyped by others

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

One in five people now have a tattoo, according to The Harris Poll. Even though one in five people in the population indicate a process of normalization of tattoos, the idea of tattoos on teens is still skewed with public aversion. Students with tattoos at school typically obtain several stereotypes, from lazy to rebel, but every label possible in connection to a tattoo on a teenager is "bad". Not only are actual tattoos on a teenager more likely appropriate due to regulations and parental consent necessary to obtain one, it is not an outworldly theory to claim the reason teens with ink receive looks of revile. As usual, a change of perspective and respect of others reveals tattoos, even on a teenager, is not a subject to be taboo.

Firstly, a majority of tattoos found on minors are for sentimental value such as the loss of a parent or to symbolize a significant element in their life. For example, a senior boy in my adult roles class my junior year would proudly bear a treble clef on his left shoulder, and he would explain to the class how he felt music had been his first love since he was a child. Truly, NO reckless, "bad or raunchy subliminal message was behind the tattoo. The only reason a bystander would reject the tattoo would be a matter of uncomfort held by the negative association of a tattoo on a minor.

Even to those who are "ok with tattoos as long as they are hidden," who are you to regulate a person's mean of expression? As full of light and love all truly contain within, a tattoo on any person is not on a body purely for critique. Any person does not have to adjust their body and what is on their body for others. As humans, we naturally do judge what we find aesthetically pleasing, but we need to remember tattoos are for the individual with the tattoo and not others.

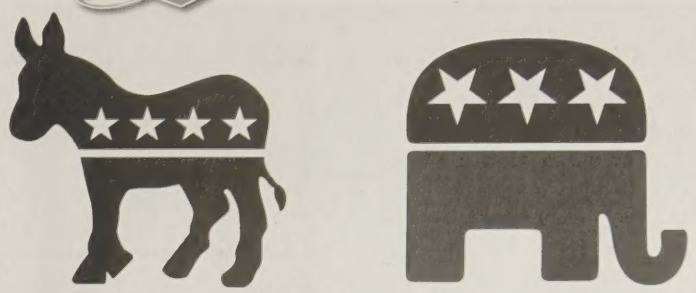
People always say they "find offense in" and or "find tattoos disgusting". Well, a vegan can say the same about UGG boots, which do harm and kill lambs in their process purely for commercial fashion. A lot of items for our body can be offensive to others, what is offensive depends on preference. But tattoos are not boots which need to be rebought the next year to keep up with the current style. In fact, tattoos do not hurt anyone, except for those passersby who decide so. People seem to forget the value of tattoos as art and not fashion. Fashion fads come and go, a tattoo is on the body forever. With such major commitment, a tattoo cannot be simply under the label of "fashion." They are part of a person and have deeper pulls and worth.

"It's been several years since I've had to break up a fight at Homestead."

TIM DECKER
Homeland Security Teacher

But really, even if a tattoo does not appear to "mean anything," allow others to have fun. Tattoos are art, but a fun tattoo which is of endearing purpose to the wearer is completely reasonable, and it is not anyone else's job to decide what should be on another person's body. If the tattoo is goofy, let him or her be goofy. By personal taste, I find cheesy cat tattoos quite lovely. To not take life so seriously would be a way to phrase this inquisition, but truly, we have to go by what is "serious" to us by our own merit. Resistance towards oneself is cruelty; it is not an act of self-love in this case to resist a certain tattoo due to public judgement. Tattoos can present tiny valuable increments in an individual's life. Whether the tattoo is a banana or in memory of a family member who has died, tattoos need respect in the since they are a part of the individual and the experiences of his or hers life. Furthermore, this type of respect should still hail for teenagers with tattoos, even for their age. The tattoo is a piece of their life experiences to this point.

Besides, if a teenager has a tattoo in the state of Indiana, his or her parent or guardian gave consent due to the law. A minor must be at least 16 and have a parent present to receive a tattoo. Surely, no one needs to be forced to enjoy tattoos. At least choose not to roll eyes at someone in respect to the notion that the permanent mark on their body meant enough to that individual to keep it for the rest of their life, and is deeper than its appearance at first glance. Regardless of age, everyone has a right to respect of how one expresses themselves.



Bernie Sanders gains speed in Democratic voters' polls

BY MALLORY MCCAULEY
Online Editor

The prosperity of the United States has begun to decline drastically, with an appalling contrast in the income of the top earning Americans and that of the middle and lower classes, a weakening of the social security system and increasing climate issues. If there is not an individual in charge of our country seeking solutions to these changes, the United States will continue to decline at an exponential rate.

Bernie Sanders, current Senator of Vermont and Democratic nominee, has emphatically made the point that change within these areas is a vital, non-negotiable topic. Of both the Democratic and Republican nominees, Sanders is the only individual who has displayed both a strong desire to fix these issues and who has also presented plausible, efficient solutions to these problems. Sanders' evident willingness to confront the serious matters has him gaining speed on top-runner Hillary Clinton.

According to Sanders' website, the top one percent of America owns just as much money as the entire bottom 90 percent; Sanders puts it simply: "There is something profoundly wrong (with this statistic)." Sanders plans to absolve this issue by closing the wage gap for Americans who work just as hard as the top one percent, working 40 hours a week but only earning minimum wage. By 2020, Sanders hopes to increase minimum wage to $15 an hour. The top one percent should be paying a tax which is just as fair as the bottom 90 percent, in an attempt to close that abysmal wage gap.

Every Republican candidate wants...the American people to believe Social Security is in crisis and must be cut," Sanders said. "They are dead wrong." According to Sanders, Social Security has a $2.8 trillion surplus and will be able to pay every eligible American for the next 19 years. Social Security is not in a crisis. What is a crisis, however, is that right now, a billionaire pays the same amount of money to Social Security as someone who makes only $118,500 annually. Sanders' solution is to have everyone pay the same percentage of their income, an act which will not only reduce the wage gap but also help to more sufficiently fund the program.

The concept of climate change is not subject to opinion – it is a fact, and if changes are not made to how we as a country live our lives, then this planet may not be habitable for our grandchildren. Bernie suggests "we must transform our energy system away from polluting fossil fuels, and towards energy efficiency and sustainability. Millions of homes and buildings need to be weatherized, and we need to greatly accelerate technological progress in wind and solar power generation." If changes such as these are not enforced by a figure such as the President, then the decline of the environment on the only habitable planet in the solar system will not end.

Sanders is the one candidate who has been bold enough to address the hard-to-fix issues America is facing today while also offering efficient, necessary solutions to every problem. To say Sanders should not be President is to say the decline of this country in regards to the wage gap, Social Security and environmental factors are acceptable. They are not. Choosing to ignore any of these issues and their severity or choosing to ignore the one candidate who can fix these issues would be ignorant.

Ben Carson more reasonable option than forerunner Trump

BY BRANDON SPEAKMAN
Guest Writer

While Donald Trump currently dominates most GOP polls, Ben Carson might be a better alternative.

Carson is the son of a single mother who never passed the third grade and always encouraged him to dream big. He did just this and ended up going to Yale University and went into the medical field. The retired neurosurgeon from Detroit turned to politics a few years ago and decided to try his luck at becoming president on May 4, 2015.

Carson has stated that he has no real affiliation with either party but has decided to run for the Republican nomination as this party's ideals align more with his own than the Democratic party's. Also, since he is African-American, Carson would represent one of the largest minority groups in America.

As he operated mainly on children, Carson is pro-life advocate in the debate over abortion. He says that he has helped raise money for many pro-life organizations for many years and will to continue to support them in their endeavors. This belief of his aligns with his Christian faith and ideals. He has stated on multiple occasions that he is a firm believer in God, but also states that he would protect non-Christians as well if he were to be elected. Furthermore, Carson promises that, if elected, he will better the education for the students of America. As the son of a mother who did not complete her education, Carson understands the importance of education as well as the ability of it to bring children "out of poverty and into realizing the American Dream".

He further believes that the education system should be run by "involved parents and engaged teachers and principals" in each school system, and that any attempt of the government to take over the school systems "must be defeated". Relating to healthcare, Carson vows that America "didn't need the $1.2 trillion Affordable Care Act" passed by the Obama Administration. As a retired doctor himself, Carson greatly is in support of Health Savings Accounts, or HSA's; benefits of this system include returning the decision-making power relating to health issues back to families and health care costs would be driven down. Carson states that "more freedom and less government in our health care system will mean lower costs, more access, and continued innovation".

In further relation to money, Carson promises that he will do his best to balance America's budget and get Americans out of their crippling $18 trillion debt. If Congress does not balance the budget by themselves, Carson will do his best to pass a balanced budget amendment; such an amendment would not allow the government to spend more money than they are making as they are doing currently.

Ben Carson overall represents the more conservative Americans and would do his best to represent both the majorities and minorities within this group. As many Americans feel that Donald Trump's motives are questionable at best, Carson is a better choice for the 2016 Republican Party Primary nomination. As his campaign slogan puts it, Ben Carson will do his best to "Heal, Inspire, and Revive" the United States of America.

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
TESSA VIRGILIO

COPY EDITOR
ETHAN ZWEIG

ONLINE EDITORS
Adam Swiatkowski *Mallory McCauley*

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

ADVISER
Teresa Nowak

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl
Willow Pierce

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

PHOTOGRAPHER
Pawandeep Bola

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members supports the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

NEWS

Class time productivity negatively impacted by technology delays

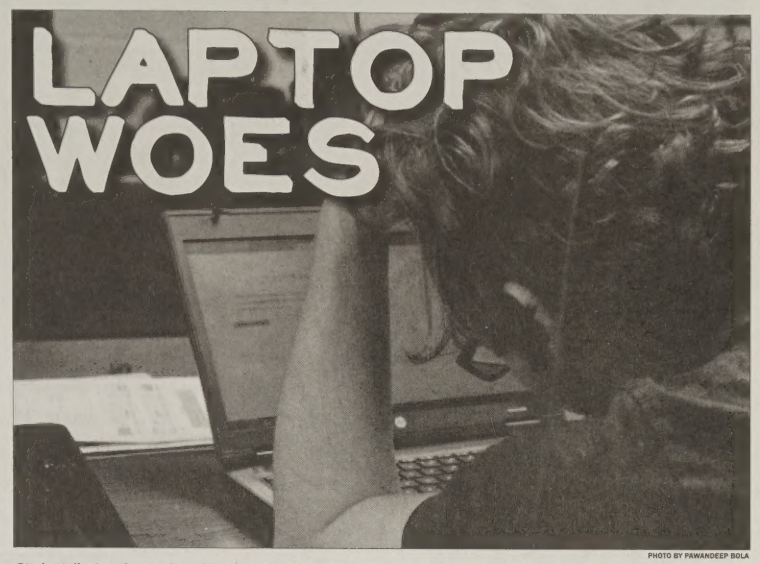


PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Student displays frustration with school laptops which have caused delays in academic progress due to slow run times.

BY MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor

Students spend most of their time these days waiting for their laptops to catch up to them. From welcome screens that last entire class periods to Google Drive refusing to load, students have noticed a problem with the school computers and the technology team is attempting to fix it.

The technology issues students and staff initially assumed would be resolved quickly have lingered in the classrooms and continue to be a disruption to education.

"I try to work along with the class and I try to be active and if my laptop isn't opening… then I'm actually missing my education," Hannah Parks (10) said. "I'm left doing the assignment during passing period really fast instead of actually doing it with the class."

According to Nicole Detter-Smith, IMC specialist, 40 to 50 laptops are taken down to the IMC daily and, while some problems such as internet and printer connectivity can be resolved quickly, approximately 10 students are given loaners every day. The most common issue students are facing is Google Chrome not working.

"With our Lightspeed filter, they block Chrome because Chrome is like the big universe that we have to keep [students] safe from," Detter-Smith said.

Detter-Smith added that many students come to the IMC anxious because they are unable to access Schoolnet while trying to take a test. Since the technology issues became apparent, teachers have been adapting lesson plans to avoid running into problems with slow laptops.

"With the realization that the problem is bigger than everyone thought, teachers are reacting in a positive way (by) making copies of a handout or a test, just to be prepared in case students can't get logged into Schoolnet," Susan Summers, assistant principal said.

Even with teachers preparing solutions ahead of time, students still spend large amounts of their school day frustrated by the unpredictable laptops.

"There's so much time wasted just not doing anything waiting for the laptops to load," Parks said.

Summers acknowledged that "everyone who works in technology in the district" is working to resolve the issues.

"I know everyone is frustrated because the technology is so exciting and you can do such meaningful work on the laptops," Summers said.

The district's technology team recreates problems students report in order to figure out how to solve them. In the meantime, Detter-Smith advises students to always shut down their laptops between school and home to "retrain the machines to become more efficient."

As a long-term solution, the school is planning to get new laptops for the upcoming school year. According to Summers, the administration is "looking at touchscreen options," as well as more lightweight machines.

"They are getting advice from teachers (about) what they want the laptops to be able to do (and) trying to predict in three years what we will need them to do," Summers said.

Summers believes the goal of using laptops at the school is to train students for the technology they will use in the future.

"We are also trying to replicate what students will need when they go on to their careers," Summers said.

While some students may be discontented with the daily inconvenience of malfunctioning laptops, Summers argues that the technology problems are teaching students "good life skills," specifically patience and learning not to save things to the desktop.

"Because we are in this era where a lot of things are new and everything is increasing in capability so quickly, I think we are going to continue to have problems (and) glitches," Summers said. "A lot valuable life lessons are learned in that frustration."

Band sponsors Fall Festival amid ISSMA preparations

BY MELANA ROSSI
Designer

Flags spinning and instruments jamming, the pride of 292 strong takes the field in their royal blue and black uniforms. Within the first measures of their piece, Poiesis: An Act of Creation, a world filled with beauty and grace, becomes reality.

On Oct. 3, the Homestead High School Spartan Alliance Band performed at the Fall Festival, which hosted 24 different marching bands. Numerous fans came to witness the band perform. This eight minute production consisted of dynamic choreography, solos and artistic structures.

PHOTO BY KAYLEE YANOVICH

Spartan Alliance Band members perform their show Poiesis.

"I think we did really well considering the conditions," Casey Murray (11), drum major, said. "It was rainy, cold and windy." According to Murray, the band executed their production exceptionally.

At the end of the festival, Penn placed first, while Elkhart landed second. Penn's band, the Marching Kingsmen, stole the audience's attention with their unique show, titled Bloom. Combined with mystical dances and strong musical composition, the show started off with woodwinds and percussion.

The Homestead band has earned first place in every category throughout their season.

"I think we have a great chance of winning ISSMA this year," Jessica Sykes (12), flute player, said.

Last year, the band ranked fourth place, but, with new challenging music and difficult choreography, the outcome may be better this year.

"I feel like it's constantly an evolving sort of thing," Rylie Read (12), marimba player, said.

Many band members, along with Read, concur that practice makes perfect. Even though the band seems flawless, there are improvements that need to be made.

"We still need to improve on music, mainly with tone quality," Sykes said.

Once these adjustments are made, the band will improve their performance greatly. They have always been dedicated to performing at their best, whether it is through the blazing heat, the frigid cold or the rain.

DEBUNKED

Myth: There is an underground dungeon on campus.
Status: False.

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Supposedly, the school was built a few miles away from a Russian spy hideout during the Cold War, and several dungeons were built underneath the school, hidden by tunnel systems and soundproof floors.

In the five decades the school has been in existence, there has never been any dungeon or underground room to the school. Not only would a dungeon cause legal issues and upset parents, but it would make detentions interesting.

The real story is that Room 314, across the hall from Student Services, was once a boiler room. In the early years of the school, teachers would usually go to the teacher lounge in order to smoke out of sight of students, per school policy. However, the lounge was built near some classroom, and smoke could be smelled through the walls, and so teachers were forced to smoke elsewhere.

The new smoking spot was a partially submerged boiler room, which is only submerged because it is built between the ramps, so it is level with the cafeteria but slightly lower than the radio studio. Teachers would smoke in this room, farther away from students, but eventually this room was retired after a policy change and the Boiler Collapse of 1982. The new policy banned teachers from smoking on school grounds at all, and so teachers began to get in their cars and drive around the neighborhood, smoking in their cars during their prep periods. They still smelled of smoke after returning to class, though, and the school board has encouraged teachers to simply wait until they are home, or even stop smoking altogether.

Do you have a rumor to disprove or a myth to debunk? Send any suspicious leads to thespartana@gmail.com with a subject line "POSSIBLE DEBUNKED", and your questions might be answered next issue.

Students opting to attend other events over traditional trick-or-treating

Other holiday activities gain prominence in high schoolers' annual halloween plans

BY ARIKA AKIN
Writer

Trick-or-treating, a staple American Halloween activity, is not as popular with teenagers as it is with younger children. It carries a certain stigma about age requirements, and many students choose to avoid going, as they could stick out. Instead, many students go to Halloween parties or to haunted houses.

Although there is no written age limit, most students stop celebrating Halloween by trick-or-treating when they reach their high school years. Some students said that they see no reason to not go.

"I think it makes people happy when they see older kids trick-or-treating; some people are annoyed but some are happy because they're like 'I remember doing that' because youth goes by really quick," Lily Ditton (10) said.

If students themselves do not go trick-or-treating, they can contribute to the Halloween atmosphere by passing out candy. If students wish to pass out candy but do not get many trick-or-treaters at their door, they can participate in the Wild Zoo Halloween at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

Even if students have fond memories of trick-or-treating, they can feel ostracized because of their age, and feel as if it is necessary for them to celebrate in another way.

"I've always been trick-or-treating, so if there's no party, then I'm not gonna go. I'm too old unfortunately," Chloe Isch (10) said.

Ditton, however, says that students should go trick-or-treating, regardless of their age, because "they can hang out with their friends, eat free candy, and dress up like a weirdo."

Students who choose not to go trick-or-treating can celebrate Halloween in different ways, such as watching horror movies or going to haunted houses.

Many people, especially parents, believe that trick-or-treating is not age-dependent.

"As a parent, I think it's fine." Tisha Bowman-Ashby, math teacher and mother of four, said. "My 13 year old wants to go trick-or-treating and I'm totally fine with that, but at his age … I remember that when going out I was afraid to go to houses because I felt like they wouldn't give me candy because a high schooler was at the door."

If teenagers don't decide to trick-or-treat, there are many other Halloween-themed activities for them to do in Fort Wayne. There are haunted houses within a reasonable distance, and passing out candy can bring joy to trick-or-treaters.

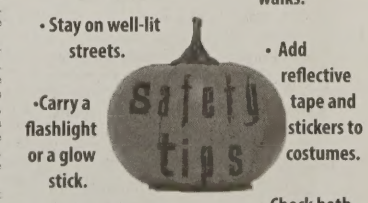
Other teenagers can celebrate halloween by dancing at events like Electric Falloween, which is happening this year on Saturday Oct. 31 it is open to high school students.

"Electric Falloween is just like an event that we're having on halloween night, and it's just like a bunch of music and lights … it's just a place to go for the night to have fun," Logan Mullinix (12) said.

All throughout October, haunted houses are open in and around Fort Wayne. The Haunted Hotel in Huntington and the Haunted Jail in Columbia City are open, as well as the the Hysterium Haunted Asylum, Haunted Castle, and Black Forest, which are all located in Fort Wayne. All of these attractions are open on Halloween night, and can provide a fun way to celebrate the holiday.

If students feel like they would stick out among younger children while trick-or-treating, they should know that many people who pass out candy are unfazed by the age of trick-or-treaters.

"As a person answering the door, I see an awful lot of high school students come through, which makes me happy," Bowman said. "You're allowed to be kids for as long as you can be."


Safety
tips
• Wear bright and reflective costumes.
• Walk on the sidewalks.
• Stay on well-lit streets.
• Add reflective tape and stickers to costumes.
•Carry a flashlight or a glow stick.
• Check both ways before crossing the street.
• Wear a mask that doesn't obstruct vision.

OPINION

Tattoos a valuable expression of identity, not to be hidden or stereotyped by others

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

One in five people now have a tattoo, according to The Harris Poll. Even though one in five people in the population indicate a process of normalization of tattoos, the idea of tattoos on teens is still skewed with public aversion. Students with tattoos at school typically obtain several stereotypes, from lazy to rebel, but every label possible in connection to a tattoo on a teenager is "bad". Not only are actual tattoos on a teenager more likely appropriate due to regulations and parental consent necessary to obtain one, it is not an outworldly theory to claim the reason teens with ink receive looks of revile. As usual, a change of perspective and respect of others reveals tattoos, even on a teenager, is not a subject to be taboo.

Firstly, a majority of tattoos found on minors are for sentimental value such as the loss of a parent or to symbolize a significant element in their life. For example, a senior boy in my adult roles class my junior year would proudly bear a treble clef on his left shoulder, and he would explain to the class how he felt music had been his first love since he was a child. Truly, NO reckless, "bad or raunchy subliminal message was behind the tattoo. The only reason a bystander would reject the tattoo would be a matter of uncomfort held by the negative association of a tattoo on a minor.

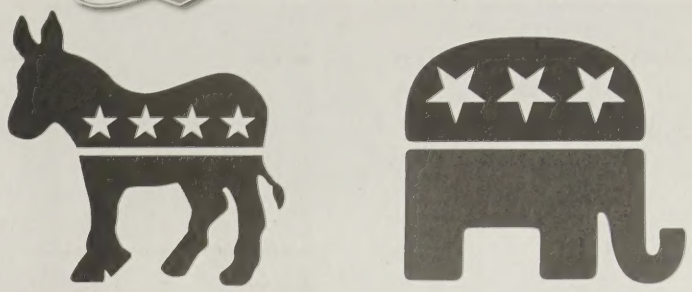
Even to those who are "ok with tattoos as long as they are hidden," who are you to regulate a person's mean of expression? As full of light and love all truly contain within, a tattoo on any person is not on a body purely for critique. Any person does not have to adjust their body and what is on their body for others. As humans, we naturally do judge what we find aesthetically pleasing, but we need to remember tattoos are for the individual with the tattoo and not others.

People always say they "find offense in" and or "find tattoos disgusting". Well, a vegan can say the same about UGG boots, which do harm and kill lambs in their process purely for commercial fashion. A lot of items for our body can be offensive to others, what is offensive depends on preference. But tattoos are not boots which need to be rebought the next year to keep up with the current style. In fact, tattoos do not hurt anyone, except for those passersby who decide so. People seem to forget the value of tattoos as art and not fashion. Fashion fads come and go, a tattoo is on the body forever. With such major commitment, a tattoo cannot be simply under the label of "fashion." They are part of a person and have deeper pulls and worth.

> "It's been several years since I've had to break up a fight at Homestead."
>
> **TIM DECKER**
> *Homeland Security Teacher*

But really, even if a tattoo does not appear to "mean anything," allow others to have fun. Tattoos are art, but a fun tattoo which is of endearing purpose to the wearer is completely reasonable, and it is not anyone else's job to decide what should be on another person's body. If the tattoo is goofy, let him or her be goofy. By personal taste, I find cheesy cat tattoos quite lovely. To not take life so seriously would be a way to phrase this inquisition, but truly, we have to go by what is "serious" to us by our own merit. Resistance towards oneself is cruelty: it is not an act of self-love in this case to resist a certain tattoo due to public judgement. Tattoos can present tiny valuable increments in an individual's life. Whether the tattoo is a banana or in memory of a family member who has died, tattoos need respect in the since they are a part of the individual and the experiences of his or hers life. Furthermore, this type of respect should still hail for teenagers with tattoos, even for their age. The tattoo is a piece of their life experiences to this point.

Besides, if a teenager has a tattoo in the state of Indiana, his or her parent or guardian gave consent due to the law. A minor must be at least 16 and have a parent present to receive a tattoo. Surely, no one needs to be forced to enjoy tattoos. At least choose not to roll eyes at someone in respect to the notion that the permanent mark on their body meant enough to that individual to keep it for the rest of their life, and is deeper than its appearance at first glance. Regardless of age, everyone has a right to respect of how one expresses themselves.



Bernie Sanders gains speed in Democratic voters' polls

BY MALLORY MCCAULEY
Online Editor

The prosperity of the United States has begun to decline drastically, with an appalling contrast in the income of the top earning Americans and that of the middle and lower classes, a weakening of the social security system and increasing climate issues. If there is not an individual in charge of our country seeking solutions to these changes, the United States will continue to decline at an exponential rate.

Bernie Sanders, current Senator of Vermont and Democratic nominee, has emphatically made the point that change within these areas is a vital, non-negotiable topic. Of both the Democratic and Republican nominees, Sanders is the only individual who has displayed both a strong desire to fix these issues and who has also presented plausible, efficient solutions to these problems. Sanders' evident willingness to confront the serious matters has him gaining speed on top-runner Hillary Clinton.

According to Sanders' website, the top one percent of America owns just as much money as the entire bottom 90 percent; Sanders puts it simply: "There is something profoundly wrong (with this statistic)." Sanders plans to absolve this issue by closing the wage gap for Americans who work just as hard as the top one percent, working 40 hours a week but only earning minimum wage. By 2020, Sanders hopes to increase minimum wage to $15 an hour. The top one percent should be paying a tax which is just as fair as the bottom 90 percent, in an attempt to close that abysmal wage gap.

Every Republican candidate wants…the American people to believe Social Security is in crisis and must be cut," Sanders said. "They are dead wrong." According to Sanders, Social Security has a $2.8 trillion surplus and will be able to pay every eligible American for the next 19 years. Social Security is not in a crisis. What is a crisis, however, is that right now, a billionaire pays the same amount of money to Social Security as someone who makes only $118,500 annually. Sanders' solution is to have everyone pay the same percentage of their income, an act which will not only reduce the wage gap but also help to more sufficiently fund the program.

The concept of climate change is not subject to opinion – it is a fact, and if changes are not made to how we as a country live our lives, then this planet may not be habitable for our grandchildren. Bernie suggests "we must transform our energy system away from polluting fossil fuels, and towards energy efficiency and sustainability. Millions of homes and buildings need to be weatherized, and we need to greatly accelerate technological progress in wind and solar power generation." If changes such as these are not enforced by a figure such as the President, then the decline of the environment on the only habitable planet in the solar system will not end.

Sanders is the one candidate who has been bold enough to address the hard-to-fix issues America is facing today while also offering efficient, necessary solutions to every problem. To say Sanders should not be President is to say the decline of this country in regards to the wage gap, Social Security and environmental factors are acceptable. They are not. Choosing to ignore any of these issues and their severity or choosing to ignore the one candidate who can fix these issues would be ignorant.

Ben Carson more reasonable option than forerunner Trump

BY BRANDON SPEAKMAN
Guest Writer

While Donald Trump currently dominates most GOP polls, Ben Carson might be a better alternative.

Carson is the son of a single mother who never passed the third grade and always encouraged him to dream big. He did just this and ended up going to Yale University and went into the medical field. The retired neurosurgeon from Detroit turned to politics a few years ago and decided to try his luck at becoming president on May 4, 2015.

Carson has stated that he has no real affiliation with either party but has decided to run for the Republican nomination as this party's ideals align more with his own than the Democratic party's. Also, since he is African-American, Carson would represent one of the largest minority groups in America.

As he operated mainly on children, Carson is pro-life advocate in the debate over abortion. He says that he has helped raise money for many pro-life organizations for many years and will to continue to support them in their endeavors. This belief of his aligns with his Christian faith and ideals. He has stated on multiple occasions that he is a firm believer in God, but also states that he would protect non-Christians as well if he were to be elected. Furthermore, Carson promises that, if elected, he will better the education for the students of America. As the son of a mother who did not complete her education, Carson understands the importance of education as well as the ability of it to bring children "out of poverty and into realizing the American Dream".

He further believes that the education system should be run by "involved parents and engaged teachers and principals" in each school system, and that any attempt of the government to take over the school systems "must be defeated". Relating to healthcare, Carson vows that America "didn't need the $1.2 trillion Affordable Care Act" passed by the Obama Administration. As a retired doctor himself, Carson greatly is in support of Health Savings Accounts, or HSAs; benefits of this system include returning the decision-making power relating to health issues back to families and health care costs would be driven down. Carson states that "more freedom and less government in our health care system will mean lower costs, more access, and continued innovation".

In further relation to money, Carson promises that he will do his best to balance America's budget and get Americans out of their crippling $18 trillion debt. If Congress does not balance the budget by themselves, Carson will do his best to pass a balanced budget amendment; such an amendment would not allow the government to spend more money than they are making as they are doing currently.

Ben Carson overall represents the more conservative Americans and would do his best to represent both the majorities and minorities within this group. As many Americans feel that Donald Trump's motives are questionable at best, Carson is a better choice for the 2016 Republican Party Primary nomination. As his campaign slogan puts it, Ben Carson will do his best to "Heal, Inspire, and Revive" the United States of America.

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
TESSA VIRGILIO

COPY EDITOR
ETHAN ZWEIG

ONLINE EDITORS
Adam Swiatkowski *Mallory McCauley*

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

PHOTOGRAPHER
Pawandeep Bola

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

ADVISER
Teresa Nowak

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl
Willow Pierce

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members supports the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Barb Baekgaard, Vera Bradley co-founder, addresses a crowd in the community room, reflecting her experiences.

Women in Business club hosts seminar with Vera Bradley co-founder

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

Enticed by the competitive world of business, thousands of students pursue business careers, chasing the fast-paced world of numbers and fast cash. However, co-founders Meredith Gray (11) and Taylor Harmon (11) claim there is another angle of business, and they established the Women in Business club to promote this alternative perspective and also establish some further exposure to business before college.

"The Women in Business club is about girls in the school who are interested in going into business or just interested in seeing how the business world works," Gray said. "We hope to educate girls by highlighting successful women in our community and learning from their stories. Afterwards, we will turn this back around in forms including business opportunities and community service work to support these businesses we're learning from. I think students don't understand exactly what business would be. They think it's more about the mathematical aspects, but I think that our club could introduce the fun, social side of it."

In fact, the club was chiefly founded because of missed opportunities at school.

"Because I'm on dance team, and Taylor is in cheer, our seasons coincide with DECA, and everyone talks about how great DECA is, so I wanted to have a club where I can experience that," Gray said. "Because I'm a founder I can work it around my time as well as others who are involved in sports and other activities."

Gaby Meissner (12), another leader of the club, describes how this club can also branch into college.

"Colleges have this on a bigger scale, and starting it at this age and showing that you started this at your high school not only looks good, but it also provides you with some background going into it," Meissner said.

With feminists seeming to suddenly burst from the seams in today's culture, it may be no surprise to see another gender-oriented club form, but it has a necessary purpose the leaders are aiming for.

"You just so often see that men are in the position of power in businesses, and with all these feminist sparks happening recently, it's cool to see that it's impacting women in this day and age, and that it's making a positive difference," Meissner said. "We're just a club trying to keep that motivation going."

The leaders strive to conduct their club in a unique manner, using club meetings to plan for community-involved events. Businesswomen are invited to guest speak for club members as well as the community, and in learning from these women, the club practices what they preach.

"When a speaker comes in and gives up their time, we'll like to turn that around and help out their cause," Gray said.

While the club hopes to gain knowledge from successful businesswomen, they also anticipate applying what they gain to their own business endeavors. The young club aims to grow in number and make a name in the community, because they mean business.

Kintz on witnessing in-school violence: "If you see something, say something"

BY EMMA PEARL
Writer

Violence is never the answer, but lately it has posed a pretty big question. The majority of the student body is aware of the numerous physical altercations which have taken place throughout the school in the last month. Such incidents have shaken students and staff alike, indicating a need for information on what exactly students should do if another incident takes place.

Jeff Kintz, assistant principal, gives procedural advice regarding what the number one priority for any witness should be.

"You've got to protect yourself," Kintz said. "Do not put yourself in harm's way unless you feel very confident that you can separate somebody or that they would listen to you, or that you would have the authority to get them to stop."

Tim Decker, Homeland Security teacher, advises against stepping in at all.

"I would not suggest a student get involved in a fight," Decker said. "Too many things can go wrong and there might be misperceptions about what (his or her) motives were."

The next step has become something of a mantra for Kintz.

"If you see something, say something," Kintz said. "All of the adults are here to help. Our staff go above and beyond and do a lot more. They never cease to surprise or amaze me in what they're capable of doing."

Advice such as this is universal, and Decker echoes Kintz's point.

"If you're a student and you witness a fight break out, I would say go get a teacher and let them know right away so that we can call down to get administrators or resource officers or whatever other resources we may need to stop that fight," Decker said.

For staff, Kintz and Decker suggest something as simple as using an authoritative tone.

"I think that using a very loud, forceful voice is also beneficial," Decker said. "Because, from time to time, that'll shock people into reality."

As for taking preemptive action, staff perspective wavers.

"It's hard to say (if students can prevent conflicts) because there's so many causes of these fights, whether it be over boyfriend-girlfriend issues, or somebody thinks I said something about somebody's brother or sister," Decker said. "I just don't know if you can stop all these fights because when you have teenagers, you have volatile emotions, and you've got individuals who don't always think clearly before they act."

Kintz, though conceding Decker's stance, does have some tips for preventative measures.

"I'm not going to say that every act of violence can be prevented," Kintz said. "However, there are some proactive things you can do. I get a lot of really good tips in this office from really good kids that really seem to have the best interest of the entire student body in mind. That information is always helpful, because then maybe, potentially, we can be proactive and intervene with the kid before they get to the edge of the cliff."

Decker also holds on to his faith in the student body.

"It's been several years since I've had to break up a fight at Homestead," Decker said. "Though I've heard a couple have taken place this year, I have not seen anything personally. I hope to keep it this way."

> "It's been several years since I've had to break up a fight at Homestead."
>
> **TIM DECKER**
> *Homeland Security Teacher*

Theater department debuts new performance, "You Can't Take It With You"

Fall play showings began Thursday with shows running through Saturday inside auditorium

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

Every year the school puts on a fall production This year's play is "You Can't Take It With You" written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. The play is about a family who is crazy and each member has their own unique quality. The one normal daughter, Alice, falls in love with the vice president of a company whose family is very wealthy and up tight. Alice's family invites them over for dinner but they end up coming a day early and ultimately walk into chaos.

The cast of the play has a great variety of students this year with both returning and new faces to the theater. Some of the returning cast members are Erin Hall (12), Daniel Meredith (11) and Atticus Bennett (10). There are some newcomers to theatre this year, including Ryan Swymeler (9), the youngest member of the cast.

"I think our group is a very good cast," Bennett said. "We've got a very good cast; everyone is very talented."

> "Homestead especially has a very welcoming theater program."
>
> **Atticus Bennett (10)**
> *Student*

Bennett, a theater veteran, was in the production of Father of the Bride last year. This year he is playing Ed, who is married to Alice's sister, Essie.

"I've always liked acting and Homestead especially has a very welcoming theater program," Bennett said. "We've got a great director and it's fun for the cast and the audience."

Curtis Shaw, theater and show choir teacher, is the director of the play. He has a theater and music background as he performed in plays during his school years.

"My passion is music and theater," Shaw said. "It's a very gratifying profession to be able to teach what you love and what you're passionate about."

Auditions were held one week before rehearsals started. The whole process started with just signing up on a paper in front of Shaw's room. On a set date the person auditioning for the given part went in and read a script Shaw may want him or her to read. Then a few days later there were callbacks. After callbacks the cast was set and the rehearsals began.

The cast has rehearsals Monday through Thursday every week from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For the first few weeks, rehearsals consist of blocking the show, which means staging the play so the actors know what to expect and the different spots to be in during whichever scene they are practicing. Then they will begin working on acting skills by running through the scenes. As they perform Shaw will stop and give advice or sometimes restage. After the first part of that rehearsal the cast will run through the scene with as few stops as possible.

"I will do my best not to stop so we get timing and so the students get a sense of continuity and flow of the show," Shaw said.

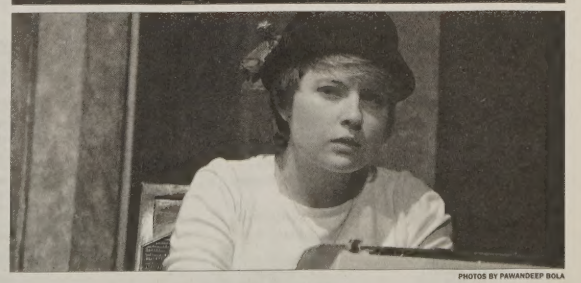
The members of the play all have a relating passion for acting.

"Acting is whatever you make it," Hall said. "It's your own thing, that's what I love about acting."

All of the members of the play spend many hours together which has built a strong chemistry between them. Many members have acted together already, but if not, the older members help teach and inspire the newer members.

"We have a very good connection with everyone," Meredith said. "It's fun to have everyone back together again."

The play will be shown on October 29, 30 and 31 in the auditorium.



PHOTOS BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

ABOVE: Jordan Vandenberghe (10) performs in a scene during rehearsals, readying for the October 29 premiere. BELOW: Erin Hall (12) scowls onstage, posed in a decorative hat.

College coming in hot: four years goes faster than you think

Take a look around you. Whether you are a freshman or a big bad senior, just take a look around you. Notice the labyrinth of hallways connecting you to classrooms, offices and more hallways--everything you need right around the corner. The school even issued you a laptop (it may be on its last leg, but a laptop nonetheless). Your textbooks cost your parents (not you) less than 100 dollars. Your classroom sizes consist of no more than approximately 30 students. Your lunch time falls between 11:11 a.m. and 12:52 p.m. Administrators and faculty closely monitor and regulate nearly everything at nearly all times. Your conclusion: you're in high school.

Let's get one thing straight, high school most likely didn't live up to your expectations, good or bad. For example, you probably imagined a mixture of settings from popular teenage-oriented movies (High School Musical, Mean Girls, Varsity Blues, etc.). You expected a very distinct hierarchy of cliques ranging from wheezing nerds to dumb jocks to preppy girls who wear high heels and miniskirts to school everyday. You also expected there would constantly be drama and self-revelations, that your favorite class would be chemistry because you would do cool things all the time and that you would attend awesome high school parties at big houses with a huge pool out back. When you got here though, it was actually pretty ordinary, boring even.

Awbrei's Angle

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

You go to your classes, zone out during lessons, forget about your assignments, have some lunch, go to more classes and count the seconds until you finally get to leave, and then you do it all over again five days a week, nine weeks a quarter, four quarters a year, which equates to approximately 720 days throughout your high school career. In short, it is a monotonous routine plaguing your precious teenage years.

People say high school consists of some of the best years of your life; you're young and reckless. You're not a kid anymore but you're not quite an adult yet. It's like as a teenager, life hands you a free pass to float casually between pulling the "I didn't know any better" and "I'm mature enough to have extra freedom" cards whenever it is convenient for you. What you don't realize however, is that while you're twiddling your thumbs during class periods, practicing your best "I'm sorry" puppy-dog-pout face in the mirror and trying to get away with wearing leggings to school without the administrators noticing, your high school career is zipping past you like that stupid roadrunner from those cartoons you used to watch as a kid (and let me remind you, Wile E. Coyote, AKA you in this analogy, never caught that dang thing).

If you're a freshman or a sophomore, chances are you're not too worried about college just yet, maybe not even if you're a junior. Sure there are a handful of you who have known where you want to go for years, maybe because your parents or older siblings went there, it's your favorite college team's school or even simply because you've actually done your research and know for a fact it's your dream school (if you're one of those people who already have everything figured out, we hate you--sincerely, everyone else). As a general rule though, most students don't worry about post-high school plans until, well, a couple months before post-high school begins.

Here are a few helpful tips to get the ball rolling if you are basically one of those kids.

1. Do well in high school. This may seem cliché, but it isn't all that hard and it's going to make a huge difference when you finally get around to deciding where you want to go to school.

2. Listen to your counselors when they're giving you college advice. This includes when you should get your SAT and ACT done, as well preparing your Common App account, setting up college visits and not waiting until the last minute to to finish your entrance essay and get teacher recommendations.

3. Don't freak out about not have everything all figured out, but definitely don't just decide you don't care and throw in the towel to avoid the inevitable overwhelming wave of stress and anxiety. Believe it or not, you can and will handle the stress. Just take one step at a time and you'll be alright.

Moral of the story: just slow down. We take time for granted. Always wishing for the weekend. Always wishing for summer. Always wishing for high school to be over. Always wishing time away, and before you know it, you're all out of time. Mom and dad won't always be there to put dinner on the table, do your laundry, give you rides to and from where you need to go or give you gas money. After high school, it's the real world, and the real world isn't just a walk in the park. So just take it nice and slow as you venture through these precious high school years preparing for the next chapter in your life. Don't wish your life away. Make every moment count. For lack of a better phrase, always remember: YOLO.

PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

School mascot finally makes appearance after long overdue break

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Life Writer

The most important part of any team is, obviously, their mascot. Recently there has been some curiosity in regards to where the Spartans mascot has disappeared. As it turns out, rather than some mysterious reason behind the Spartan's disappearance, Joe Updegrove, athletic director, explained the reasons behind the Spartan's hiatus.

Updegrove made it clear that there has been a decline in the use of the Spartan mostly because of the potential safety hazard presented by such a confining and hot costume.

"When it gets hot like it does at some of the football games, it can get too hot for the student in the costume," Updegrove said.

As far as managing the heat, Updegrove said that there is actually a small fan inside of the costume. " It was functional for all of about two minutes in the first game," Updegrove said of the concern.

Student response has also piqued regarding the involvement of the Spartan mascot in sporting events. While the use of the Spartan has declined within the past few years. Updegrove hopes that the school will be able to use it more often as the weather starts to cool off a little bit in the fall.

"I think having a mascot gives people something to be proud of," Valerie Harants (12) said. "A school mascot gives a school something behind which they can stand."

For some students there is an aspect of idolatry. This seems to be a lot stronger for the middle school and elementary students, who will eventually come to the the school. The Spartan gives the younger kids something to look up to, and maybe hope to try on the costume one day.

"The younger kids really like to see where they'll be in a few years," Updegrove said.

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

The Spartan was recently spotted at a home football game.

Steve Lake, assistant principal, had the same thought as many students: that he was not sure where the Spartan went. Lake thinks, however, that the student section is more influential than a mascot, and that both together could really help hype up a crowd and get things really going.

"It's not so much the mask as it is the person behind it, and if you get a really charismatic kid behind there, plus such a good student section, people will get really amped up" Lake said.

Despite the short disappearance of the mascot, Updegrove thinks that there's a pretty good chance of spectators catching sight of the Spartan at some upcoming games.

"Now that the weather is getting a little bit cooler, we hope to get someone out there for a little bit more at a time" Lake said.

With the school's large student section, it might make sense to try and break out the Spartan costume to try and further the impression at games. After seeing a student don the Spartan costume, it becomes obvious how hot, bulky and cumbersome the costume can be. Especially considering the small detail that the costume is, for an unknown reason, short a finger on each hand. From this, it is apparent why a student might be hesitant to take on the mascot.

"It takes a certain kind of person to be willing to do that" Lake said of the student now taking up the tradition of wearing The Spartan costume. Despite this, members of the student section voted on a particular few students to wear the costume for this school year. For now though, the identity of the Spartan remains a mystery to the students, at least until word gets around.

Select Spartan staff run 26.2 miles in Boston

Two of the school's very own speak of their experiences in Boston Marathon

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

Students hear of their peers' accomplishments constantly throughout the year, but more often than not, the accomplishments of teachers and faculty go unrecognized. Two of the school's staff members in specific, Tammy Behrens, teacher, and Andy Klein, head custodian, have achieved accomplishments indeed.

Every April, cardio-enthusiasts from all over the world gather in Boston to perform in one of the most renowned marathon competitions in the country. Two if the school's very own, Behrens and Klein, have conquered the whopping 26.2 miles extends from Hopkinton, Mass. to Boston and passes many historical sites relating to the history of the Boston Marathon, including statues erected in honor of George V. Brown, starter of the race for 30 years, and Johnny Kelly, two-time Boston winner.

According to the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) website, the Boston Marathon actually got its start in 1887 as a part of the BAA club games with a mere 15 runners initially participating. Over the years, the number of participants has grown to nearly half a million people. Getting into the marathon at all is an accomplishment all its own.

"The first year that I ran it was 2004, and I qualified in 2003 at the Chicago Marathon, and that year I just barely qualified," Behrens said. "It's a long process because you have to run a full marathon and qualify, and then you have to stay in good enough shape to then go run the (Boston) Marathon. So it's really probably more than a full year process."

Not only is the marathon an extensive training process, putting in an average of between 40 and 60 miles a week and making sure diet wise to take in enough calories, but due to the marathon being in April, the actual training season presents other challenges such as weather.

"Training for an April race, you're training during the winter months," Klein, who ran the Boston Marathon for the first time this past year, said. "There (were) some days where by the time we got done with our run, our water bottles were frozen--it was that miserable cold out."

Behrens, who started running in middle school, ran the Boston Marathon twice, but due to responsibilities such as being a teacher, a cross country coach and a mother, she has put training on hold until 2017, she hopes. Klein, likewise, decided to wait until things in his own life settled down.

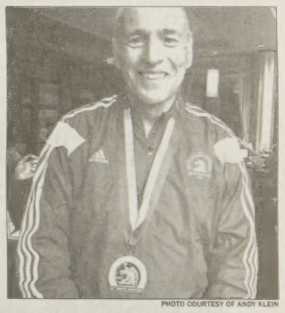


PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDY KLEIN

Andy Klein poses with medal after competing in the race.

PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

Tammy Behrens holds both a photo of herself running in Boston and two medals awarded to her for her participation.

"Training can be selfish when you need to put in a lot of miles and a lot of days," Klein said. "So once my children were older and I had more private time, that's when I took it back up."

Klein's running experience dates back to high school, where he admits the only reason he participated in cross country was because his homeroom teacher was the coach and harassed him and his peers to do it.

"We had fun doing it just because we were all together," Klein said. "(But) running in the last two and a half years has been much more satisfying and therapeutic."

For Klein, family and friends, such as his wife and kids as well as Behrens and Sara Wyss, teacher, have made this experience special with their constant support and advice.

"It wasn't a bucket list item, it was just something that I qualified for and was encouraged by friends and family to go for," Klein said. "I was quite happy to have done it. I enjoyed it thoroughly (and) hope to make it back there again."

As a coach, Behrens applies her experience running marathons to her cross country athletes.

"The kids know that my best marathon time is 3:23, which is a 7:45 mile, and talent wise, it gives me the confidence to know that I've done what I'm asking them to do and I think that the girls see that too," Behrens said. "Anything that I'm asking them to do, I'll do it right with them."

B.A.A.

FUN FACT: According to the Boston Athletic Association's website, the BAA was established in 1887, but its motto and mascot were not decided upon until 1890, the same year the very first track and field competition was held. Its motto is recorded to say, "encourage all manly sports and promote physical culture," and its logo: a unicorn.

designed by melana rossi and kylie poling

LIFE

PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Barb Baekgaard, Vera Bradley co-founder, addresses a crowd in the community room, reflecting her experiences.

Women in Business club hosts seminar with Vera Bradley co-founder

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

Enticed by the competitive world of business, thousands of students pursue business careers, chasing the fast-paced world of numbers and fast cash. However, co-founders Meredith Gray (11) and Taylor Harmon (11) claim there is another angle of business, and they established the Women in Business club to promote this alternative perspective and also establish some further exposure to business before college.

"The Women in Business club is about girls in the school who are interested in going into business or just interested in seeing how the business world works," Gray said. "We hope to educate girls by highlighting successful women in our community and learning from their stories. Afterwards, we will turn this back around in forms including business opportunities and community service work to support these businesses we're learning from. I think students don't understand exactly what business would be. They think it's more about the mathematical aspects, but I think that our club could introduce the fun, social side of it."

In fact, the club was chiefly founded because of missed opportunities at school.

"Because I'm on dance team, and Taylor is in cheer, our seasons coincide with DECA, and everyone talks about how great DECA is, so I wanted to have a club where I can experience that," Gray said. "Because I'm a founder I can work it around my time as well as others who are involved in sports and other activities."

Gaby Meissner (12), another leader of the club, describes how this club can also branch into college.

"Colleges have this on a bigger scale, and starting it at this age and showing that you started this at your high school not only looks good, but it also provides you with some background going into it," Meissner said.

With feminists seeming to suddenly burst from the seams in today's culture, it may be no surprise to see another gender-oriented club form, but it has a necessary purpose the leaders are aiming for.

"You just so often see that men are in the position of power in businesses, and with all these feminist sparks happening recently, it's cool to see that it's impacting women in this day and age, and that it's making a positive difference," Meissner said. "We're just a club trying to keep that motivation going."

The leaders strive to conduct their club in a unique manner, using club meetings to plan for community-involved events. Businesswomen are invited to guest speak for club members as well as the community, and in learning from these women, the club practices what they preach.

"When a speaker comes in and gives up their time, we'll like to turn that around and help out their cause," Gray said.

While the club hopes to gain knowledge from successful businesswomen, they also anticipate applying what they gain to their own business endeavors. The young club aims to grow in number and make a name in the community, because they mean business.

Kintz on witnessing in-school violence: "If you see something, say something"

BY EMMA PEARL
Writer

Violence is never the answer, but lately it has posed a pretty big question. The majority of the student body is aware of the numerous physical altercations which have taken place throughout the school in the last month. Such incidents have shaken students and staff alike, indicating a need for information on what exactly students should do if another incident takes place.

Jeff Kintz, assistant principal, gives procedural advice regarding what the number one priority for any witness should be.

"You've got to protect yourself," Kintz said. "Do not put yourself in harm's way unless you feel very confident that you can separate somebody or that they would listen to you, or that you would have the authority to get them to stop."

Tim Decker, Homeland Security teacher, advises against stepping in at all.

"I would not suggest a student get involved in a fight," Decker said. "Too many things can go wrong and there might be misperceptions about what (his or her) motives were."

The next step has become something of a mantra for Kintz.

"If you see something, say something," Kintz said. "All of the adults are here to help. Our staff go above and beyond and do a lot more. They never cease to surprise or amaze me in what they're capable of doing."

"It's been several years since I've had to break up a fight at Homestead."

TIM DECKER
Homeland Security Teacher

Advice such as this is universal, and Decker echoes Kintz's point.

"If you're a student and you witness a fight break out, I would say go get a teacher and let them know right away so that we can call down to get administrators or resource officers or whatever other resources we may need to stop that fight," Decker said.

For staff, Kintz and Decker suggest something as simple as using an authoritative tone.

"I think that using a very loud, forceful voice is also beneficial," Decker said. "Because, from time to time, that'll shock people into reality."

As for taking preemptive action, staff perspective waivers.

"It's hard to say (if students can prevent conflicts) because there's so many causes of these fights, whether it be over boyfriend/girlfriend issues, or somebody thinks I said something about somebody's brother or sister," Decker said. "I just don't know if you can stop all these fights because when you have teenagers, you have volatile emotions, and you've got individuals who don't always think clearly before they act."

Kintz, though conceding Decker's stance, does have some tips for preventative measures.

"I'm not going to say that every act of violence can be prevented," Kintz said. "However, there are some proactive things you can do. I get a lot of really good tips in this office from really good kids that really seem to have the best interest of the entire student body in mind. That information is always helpful, because then maybe, potentially, we can be proactive and intervene with the kid before they get to the edge of the cliff."

Decker also holds on to his faith in the student body.

"It's been several years since I've had to break up a fight at Homestead," Decker said. "Though I've heard a couple have taken place this year, I have not seen anything personally. I hope to keep it this way."

Theater department debuts new performance, "You Can't Take It With You"

Fall play showings began Thursday with shows running through Saturday inside auditorium

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

Every year the school puts on a fall production This year's play is "You Can't Take It With You" written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. The play is about a family who is crazy and each member has their own unique quality. The one normal daughter, Alice, falls in love with the vice president of a company whose family is very wealthy and up tight. Alice's family invites them over for dinner but they end up coming a day early and ultimately walk into chaos.

The cast of the play has a great variety of students this year with both returning and new faces to the theater. Some of the returning cast members are Erin Hall (12), Daniel Meredith (11) and Atticus Bennett (10). There are some newcomers to theatre this year, including Ryan Swymeler (9), the youngest member of the cast.

"Homestead especially has a very welcoming theater program."

Atticus Bennett (10)
Student

"I think our group is a very good cast," Bennett said. "We've got a very good cast; everyone is very talented."

Bennett, a theater veteran, was in the production of Father of the Bride last year. This year he is playing Ed, who is married to Alice's sister, Essie.

"I've always liked acting and Homestead especially has a very welcoming theater program," Bennett said. "We've got a great director and it's fun for the cast and the audience."

Curtis Shaw, theater and show choir teacher, is the director of the play. He has a theater and music background as he performed in plays during his school years.

"My passion is music and theater," Shaw said. "It's a very gratifying profession to be able to teach what you love and what you're passionate about."

Auditions were held one week before rehearsals started. The whole process started with just signing up on a paper in front of Shaw's room. On a set date the person auditioning for the given part went in and read a script Shaw may want him or her to read. Then a few days later there were callbacks. After callbacks the cast was set and the rehearsals began.

The cast has rehearsals Monday through Thursday every week from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For the first few weeks, rehearsals consist of blocking the show, which means staging the play so the actors know what to expect and the different spots to be in during whichever scene they are practicing. Then they will begin working on acting skills by running through the scenes. As they perform Shaw will stop and give advice or sometimes restage. After the first part of that rehearsal the cast will run through the scene with as few stops as possible.

"I will do my best not to stop so we get timing and so the students get a sense of continuity and flow of the show," Shaw said.

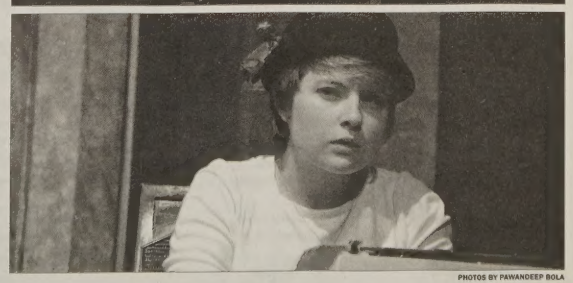
The members of the play all have a relating passion for acting.

"Acting is whatever you make it," Hall said. "It's your own thing, that's what I love about acting."

All of the members of the play spend many hours together which has built a strong chemistry between them. Many members have acted together already, but if not, the older members help teach and inspire the newer members.

"We have a very good connection with everyone," Meredith said. "It's fun to have everyone back together again."

The play will be shown on October 29, 30 and 31 in the auditorium.



PHOTOS BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

ABOVE: Jordan Vandenberghe (10) performs in a scene during rehearsals, readying for the October 29 premiere. BELOW: Erin Hall (12) scowls onstage, posed in a decorative hat.

College coming in hot: four years goes faster than you think

Take a look around you. Whether you are a freshman or a big bad senior, just take a look around you. Notice the labyrinth of hallways connecting you to classrooms, offices and more hallways--everything you need right around the corner. The school even issued you a laptop (it may be on its last leg, but a laptop nonetheless). Your textbooks cost your parents (not you) less than 100 dollars. Your classroom sizes consist of no more than approximately 30 students. Your lunch time falls between 11:11 a.m. and 12:52 p.m. Administrators and faculty closely monitor and regulate nearly everything at nearly all times. Your conclusion: you're in high school.

Let's get one thing straight, high school most likely didn't live up to your expectations, good or bad. For example, you probably imagined a mixture of settings from popular teenage-oriented movies (High School Musical, Mean Girls, Varsity Blues, etc.). You expected a very distinct hierarchy of cliques ranging from wheezing nerds to dumb jocks to preppy girls who wear high heels and miniskirts to school everyday. You also expected there would constantly be drama and self-revelations, that your favorite class would be chemistry because you would do cool things all the time and that you would attend awesome high school parties at big houses with a huge pool out back. When you got here though, it was actually pretty ordinary, boring even.

Awbrei's Angle

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

You go to your classes, zone out during lessons, forget about your assignments, have some lunch, go to more classes and count the seconds until you finally get to leave, and then you do it all over again five days a week, nine weeks a quarter, four quarters a year, which equates to approximately 720 days throughout your high school career. In short, it is a monotonous routine plaguing your precious teenage years.

People say high school consists of some of the best years of your life; you're young and reckless. You're not a kid anymore but you're not quite an adult yet. It's like as a teenager, life hands you a free pass to float casually between pulling the "I didn't know any better" and "I'm mature enough to have extra freedom" cards whenever it is convenient for you. What you don't realize however, is that while you're twiddling your thumbs during class periods, practicing your best "I'm sorry" puppy-dog-pout face in the mirror and trying to get away with wearing leggings to school without the administrators noticing, your high school career is zipping past you like that stupid roadrunner from those cartoons you used to watch as a kid (and let me remind you, Wile E. Coyote, AKA you in this analogy, never caught that dang thing).

If you're a freshman or a sophomore, chances are you're not too worried about college just yet, maybe not even if you're a junior. Sure there are a handful of you who have known where you want to go for years, maybe because your parents or older siblings went there, it's your favorite college team's school or even simply because you've actually done your research and know for a fact it's your dream school (if you're one of those people who already have everything figured out, we hate you--sincerely, everyone else). As a general rule though, most students don't worry about post-high school plans until, well, a couple months before post-high school begins.

Here are a few helpful tips to get the ball rolling if you are basically one of those kids.

1. Do well in high school. This may seem cliché, but it isn't all that hard and it's going to make a huge difference when you finally get around to deciding where you want to go to school.

2. Listen to your counselors when they're giving you college advice. This includes when you should get your SAT and ACT done, as well preparing your Common App account, setting up college visits and not waiting until the last minute to to finish your entrance essay and get teacher recommendations.

3. Don't freak out about not have everything all figured out, but definitely don't just decide you don't care and throw in the towel to avoid the inevitable overwhelming wave of stress and anxiety. Believe it or not, you can and will handle the stress. Just take one step at a time and you'll be alright.

Moral of the story: just slow down. We take time for granted. Always wishing for the weekend. Always wishing for summer. Always wishing for high school to be over. Always wishing time away, and before you know it, you're all out of time. Mom and dad won't always be there to put dinner on the table, do your laundry, give you rides to and from where you need to go or give you gas money. After high school, it's the real world, and the real world isn't just a walk in the park. So just take it nice and slow as you venture through these precious high school years preparing for the next chapter in your life. Don't wish your life away. Make every moment count. For lack of a better phrase, always remember: YOLO.

PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

School mascot finally makes appearance after long overdue break

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Life Writer

The most important part of any team is, obviously, their mascot. Recently there has been some curiosity in regards to where the Spartans mascot has disappeared. As it turns out, rather than some mysterious reason behind the Spartan's disappearance, Joe Updegrove, athletic director, explained the reasons behind the Spartan's hiatus.

Updegrove made it clear that there has been a decline in the use of the Spartan mostly because of the potential safety hazard presented by such a confining and hot costume.

"When it gets hot like it does at some of the football games, it can get too hot for the student in the costume," Updegrove said.

As far as managing the heat, Updegrove said that there is actually a small fan inside of the costume. " It was functional for all of about two minutes in the first game," Updegrove said of the concern.

Student response has also piqued regarding the involvement of the Spartan mascot in sporting events. While the use of the Spartan has declined within the past few years. Updegrove hopes that the school will be able to use it more often as the weather starts to cool off a little bit in the fall.

"I think having a mascot gives people something to be proud of," Valerie Harants (12) said. "A school mascot gives a school something behind which they can stand."

For some students there is an aspect of idolatry. This seems to be a lot stronger for the middle school and elementary students, who will eventually come to the the school. The Spartan gives the younger kids something to look up to, and maybe hope to try on the costume one day.

"The younger kids really like to see where they'll be in a few years," Updegrove said.

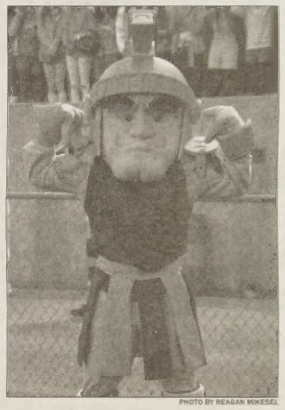


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

The Spartan was recently spotted at a home football game.

Steve Lake, assistant principal, had the same thought as many students that he was not sure where the Spartan went. Lake thinks, however, that the student section is more influential than a mascot, and that both together could really help hype up a crowd and get things really going.

"It's not so much the mask as it is the person behind it, and if you get a really charismatic kid behind there, plus such a good student section, people will get really amped up" Lake said.

Despite the short disappearance of the mascot, Updegrove thinks that there's a pretty good chance of spectators catching sight of the Spartan at some upcoming games.

"Now that the weather is getting a little bit cooler, we hope to get someone out there for a little bit more at a time" Lake said.

With the school's large student section, it might make sense to try and break out the Spartan costume to try and further the impression at games. After seeing a student don the Spartan costume, it becomes obvious how hot, bulky and cumbersome the costume can be. Especially considering the small detail that the costume is, for an unknown reason, short a finger on each hand. From this, it is apparent why a student might be hesitant to take on the mascot.

"It takes a certain kind of person to be willing to do that" Lake said of the student now taking up the tradition of wearing The Spartan costume. Despite this, members of the student section voted on a particular few students to wear the costume for this school year. For now though, the identity of the Spartan remains a mystery to the students, at least until word gets around.

Select Spartan staff run 26.2 miles in Boston

Two of the school's very own speak of their experiences in Boston Marathon

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

Students hear of their peers' accomplishments constantly throughout the year, but more often than not, the accomplishments of teachers and faculty go unrecognized. Two of the school's staff members in specific, Tammy Behrens, teacher, and Andy Klein, head custodian, have achieved accomplishments indeed.

Every April, cardio-enthusiasts from all over the world gather in Boston to perform in one of the most renowned marathon competitions in the country. Two if the school's very own, Behrens and Klein, have conquered the whopping 26.2 miles extends from Hopkinton, Mass. to Boston and passes many historical sites relating to the history of the Boston Marathon, including statues erected in honor of George V. Brown, starter of the race for 30 years, and Johnny Kelly, two-time Boston winner.

According to the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) website, the Boston Marathon actually got its start in 1887 as a part of the BAA club games with a mere 15 runners initially participating. Over the years, the number of participants has grown to nearly half a million people. Getting into the marathon at all is an accomplishment all its own.

"The first year that I ran it was 2004, and I qualified in 2003 at the Chicago Marathon, and that year I just barely qualified," Behrens said. "It's a long process because you have to run a full marathon and qualify, and then you have to stay in good enough shape to then go run the (Boston) Marathon. So it's really probably more than a full year process."

Not only is the marathon an extensive training process, putting in an average of between 40 and 60 miles a week and making sure diet wise to take in enough calories, but due to the marathon being in April, the actual training season presents other challenges such as weather.

"Training for an April race, you're training during the winter months," Klein, who ran the Boston Marathon for the first time this past year, said. "There (were) some days where by the time we got done with our run, our water bottles were frozen--it was that miserable cold out."

Behrens, who started running in middle school, ran the Boston Marathon twice, but due to responsibilities such as being a teacher, a cross country coach and a mother, she has put training on hold until 2017, she hopes. Klein, likewise, decided to wait until things in his own life settled down.

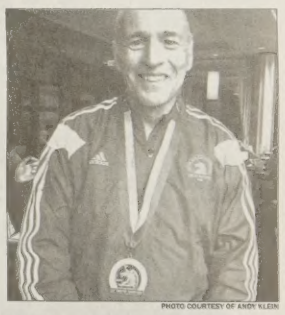


PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDY KLEIN

Andy Klein poses with medal after competing in the race.

"Training can be selfish when you need to put in a lot of miles and a lot of days," Klein said. "So once my children were older and I had more private time, that's when I took it back up."

Klein's running experience dates back to high school, where he admits the only reason he participated in cross country was because his homeroom teacher was the coach and harassed him and his peers to do it.

"We had fun doing it just because we were all together," Klein said. "(But) running in the last two and a half years has been much more satisfying and therapeutic."

For Klein, family and friends, such as his wife and kids as well as Behrens and Sara Wyss, teacher, have made this experience special with their constant support and advice.

"It wasn't a bucket list item, it was just something that I qualified for and was encouraged by friends and family to go for," Klein said. "I was quite happy to have done it. I enjoyed it thoroughly (and) hope to make it back there again."

As a coach, Behrens applies her experience running marathons to her cross country athletes.

"The kids know that my best marathon time is 3:23, which is a 7:45 mile, and talent wise, it gives me the confidence to know that I've done what I'm asking them to do and I think that the girls see that too," Behrens said. "Anything that I'm asking them to do, I'll do it right with them."

PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

Tammy Behrens holds both a photo of herself running in Boston and two medals awarded to her for her participation.

FUN FACT: According to the Boston Athletic Association's website, the BAA was established in 1887, but its motto and mascot were not decided upon until 1890, the same year the very first track and field competition was held. Its motto is recorded to say, "encourage all manly sports and promote physical culture," and its logo: a unicorn.

designed by emma leininger

SPORTS

Star Stats: Fall Edition

Boys Soccer

Most burpees done in one practice: 160, everyone

Most goals: Samel Muslic (10) and Austin Johnston (11), 5

Least amount of times water bottle was brought to practice: Timmy Messal (12), 20%

Cause of most team sprints: Josh Holbrook (10), 12

Most own goals: Dan Matsyuk (12), 1

Most saves in season: Riley Krull (12), 54

Girls Soccer

Most "broken ankles" caused: Hannah Dolfuss (12), 144

Most in-game nutmegs: Isabel Wells (12), 12

Loudest yell: Kayla Amidon (10), 90 decibels

Most goals: Morgan Halliwill (9),

Most falls: Catie Flory (12), 56

Girls Cross Country

Most pukes in one race: Maddie Distelrath (11), 3

Most injuries in a season: Sarah Carter (11), 3

Most push-ups done in one practice: Kaitlyn Mueller (9), 50

Most races won: Grace Walther (12), 4

Most breadsticks eaten in one pasta party: Mary Landrigan (12), 18

Boys Cross Country

Biggest time drop: Alec Ramos (12), 2:16.2

Most races won: Brayden Law (12), 4

Most injuries sustained while still running: Luke Rose (12), 5

Most bathroom breaks in one practice: Marc Gibble (12), 4

Most pairs of colorful running shorts: Michael Conte (12), 9

Football

Most total yards: Austin Krider (12), 1112

Most times tackled from behind: Jonah Watson (12), 10

Most rushing touchdowns: Landon Durnell (12), 11

Most total tackles: Hunter Terrell (11), 65

Most sacks: Moses Girardot (11) and Tico Brown (10), 6

Tennis

Most shirts taken off in practice: Solomon Duncan (11), 11

Most balls hit over fence per practice: Grant Marsh (9), 4

Most wins: Will Milne (10) and Jordan Andrews (11), 17

Most wins against Carmel: Evan Castle (11), 1

Longest hair: Jordan Andrews (11), 14 inches

Volleyball

Most kills: Paige Eakright (12), 302

Most aces: Ella Machall (11), 55

Highest amount of dumb comments per match: Ella Machall (11), 2.75

Most digs: Abby Moore (12), 359

Most net violations per match: Kelsey Nutter (10), 3

Coaches expect too much dedication from players and their ability to be present for all events

Student athletes have a busy and hectic schedule that revolves around schoolwork, after-school practice, games and (if they're lucky) maybe a little sleep. Life during the school year can be difficult to balance when high school sports put so much pressure on the athletes to dedicate all of their time to the sport they are participating in.

Not only do athletes devote their entire summer, when they are supposed to be given a relief from school, to the sport they play, but they give large amounts of their time to the sport when school is in session as well. For the majority, practice is two to four hours after the conclusion of the school day. This could result in the student getting home anywhere from 5p.m. to 8p.m. at night, or sometimes even later. This results in homework being done later than other students, as well as any other tasks they have to do that night. This is a near daily routine for many students, unless they have a game, match or meet in which most players will end up staying after school and spending the rest of their night either at their own school or their opponent's. On nights like this, it is likely that the player will not be returning to their home until 9p.m.

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

or 10p.m. When they finally have a chance to tackle their homework that was assigned that day. Teachers collectively assign anywhere from one to four hours of homework each night, which can keep a student awake until all hours of the morning when they are getting home so late every day. In many cases a student will also need to eat dinner after a game as well as shower. This results in a very small amount of sleep each night, causing the player to be tired during school and practice the next day. Most coaches will not tolerate a player who has a lack of sleep, and will reprimand them for showing signs that they are tired, such as yawning or moving slower. Sometimes a player will be able to fix these things, but if they are just too tired and continue to show these signs, they could be punished.

The rule at Homestead is that a student can only play if they are passing five out of seven classes. While this is maintainable for some students, there are also athletes that need to devote more time to their classes in order to achieve acceptable grades, and these athletes do not have the time they need when their afternoons and weekends are taken up by the sport they play.

While it is important to be present at practices and games whenever possible, it should be considered acceptable by coaches that a student can miss practice for educational obligations. Athletes are always told that school should come before extra-curricular activities, but in recent years, this is not enforced by coaches. It has gone so far that coaches will punish a player that misses practice by sitting them out during a portion of a game, match or meet. Missing practice could be considered unacceptable when a team meets infrequently, but if practice is nearly every day after school then one or two practices out of at least 30 or 40 will not be destructive to the student's ability to play.

Student athletes do not only need to be dedicated to their sport during their school season, but they are also basically required to devote themselves to the sport during their entire summer vacation as well. While the students could be using this summer time for other things that benefit them educationally, such as summer gym or an online class for a required credit, or even just relaxing and enjoying the much-needed vacation, they instead are waking up early in the morning to spend hours on the court or field.

More pressure is put on players to do better every season, so the athletic standards are constantly rising, with more practices and more difficult conditioning every year ahead of them. For a majority of parents and people of their generation that went to college, there's a strong possibility that they would not be able to get into the college that they previously attended if they sent in their same application in now. Educational standards have been raised as well as athletic standards, and can put a student athlete in a position of constant stress and anxiety.

Because of the lack of sleep most players end up with, they are more susceptible to illness such as heart disease, high blood pressure or even stroke. For people with hypertension, one night of little to no sleep can cause elevated blood pressure all throughout the next day, according to Harvard Medical School. It can also cause decreased performance and alertness, which are two things all student athletes are required to maintain.

Students are also missing out on events that are important to them, so they can be at events that are important to their coaches. Players will often not be able to attend prior commitments such as weddings, family events or pre-scheduled appointments all for the sake of a sporting event. Some students are also at the age where it is acceptable for them to have a job, but are not able to do so because all of their free time is taken up by their sport. It is difficult for players to make their own money without careful planning.

All in all, school sports should be more of a hobby to a student who is also in school full time, and less like a full-time job or commitment.

PHOTO BY LOGAN MULLINIX

Maddie Distelrath (11) and Kelsey Batt (11) lead the team in the beginning of the sectional race at Northrop High School

Girls cross country finishes strong in the regular season and pushes to state

BY WILLOW PIERCE
Writer

"There is no success greater than that of the team. We all have individual successes throughout the season, but they culminate in team success. Without the team there is no sport. We run for each other as much as we do for ourselves. The team score is derived from individual finishes, so while the act of running may be individual the whole team contributes to success." - Grace Walther (12)

For the girls' cross country team, this year has been nothing but successful. With records broken and times becoming faster, the 39 girls on the team are excited to be running in the state race.

The Cross Country team, whose only event is to run a 5k for a time, often spend their days outside working on their stamina and speed. Practices during the week consist of an average 50 miles of running per week, although it varies depending on the athlete. Along with the long run they do on Mondays, the girls do interval and tempo workouts throughout the week with recovery days on Wednesday and Friday.

With the many practices each week, the girls have grown closer.

"There's just an amazing team dynamic this year. Everyone gets along and supports each other," Kelsey Batt (11) said.

Although their practices are long and difficult, the results prove their importance.

"We are poised for great success as a team this season. Everyone has worked hard this year to improve upon their individual weaknesses and as a team we have become a much stronger, more driven and competitive group." Walther, a senior on the team who has been running since 6th grade, said.

With a time of 18:04 on her 5k, Walther has broken both the school record (18:47), and the senior record (19:27) during her time on the team. Batt is another athlete who has improved her run throughout the season. At state last year, she ran a 20:48, but this year she has improved her time to a 19:09, which also breaks the junior record.

With the runners' personal times improving, the team is doing well compared to competing schools. The team has improved their ranking this year, making it the highest it has ever been, at fifteenth place. "(It's) fan-freaking-tastic!" Batt said, "(We are) ranked higher in state than we've ever been."

Sara Wyss, head coach and teacher at Homestead, has been coaching for 25 years. She and the team believe they have what it takes to win state tomorrow.

"When the gun goes off, you're in it for the full game," Wyss said, and the girls all agree.

The girls' cross country team has been in the state finals 10 consecutive times, 13 years in total and the girls realize that they have tradition to hold up. Each year it's their goal to place higher and higher in the rankings.

"Cross country is not a class sport, so you run with the big schools and the little schools, and you have great little schools, and fantastic big schools, so there is no class division and it's truly a state championship," Wyss said.

Even with the season winding down, the girls continue to show support for each other.

"We're sisters in sport and best friends on and off the trails." Batt said.

Boys tennis finishes their season with grueling regional match

Boys varsity tennis team ends season with a crushing defeat against Leo

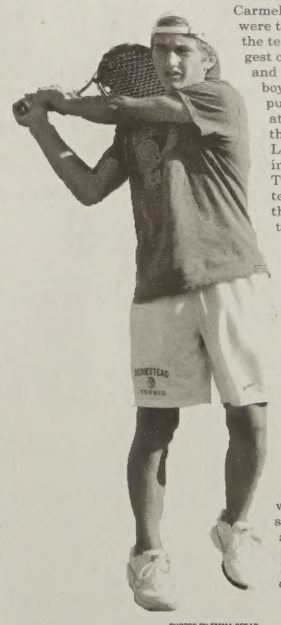
BY EMMA LEININGER
Social Media Manager

As the boys tennis team entered into the last few most crucial matches of the season, they had their eyes set on state. With a strong offense and great team chemistry, the team was focused on finishing their matches and attacking each game.

"One of our weaknesses could be finishing our matches," David Heiney (9) said. Usually we get done with the first set, into the second set, and then we die out, get tired or have to win in the third when we could just finish in the second."

Despite the high expectations the team fell short, ending the season in the second game of regionals against Leo with a score of 3-2.

"Our main goal for the season was to get back to semi-state, but unfortunately that did not happen this year," Jordan Andrews (11) said. "(We) fell one match short."

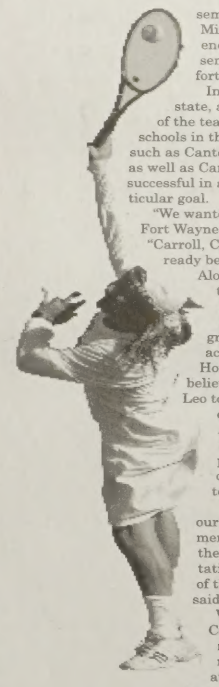


PHOTOS BY EMMA CESAR

Both Leo and Carmel High School were thought to be the team's strongest competitors and although the boys could not pull out the win at regionals, they did defeat Leo earlier on in the season. This was a true testament to the skill and talent of the team, and each member was proud of that win.

"I would say our greatest accomplishment this season, so far, was the win against Leo," Heiney said.

Although the team will not continue with its season, Andrews and doubles partner Will Milne (10), conquered over Leo and advanced to semi-state. However, Milne and Andrews ended their season at semi-state with an unfortunate loss to Carroll.



In spite of not reaching state, another major goal of the team was to defeat the schools in the surrounding area such as Canterbury High School as well as Carroll. The team was successful in achieving this particular goal.

"We wanted to beat the other Fort Wayne teams," Milne said. "Carroll, Canterbury, we already beat both of them."

Along those same lines, the team has had an incredible season filled with many group and individual accomplishments. However, while Heiney believed the win against Leo to be the team's greatest accomplishment, Andrews had another match in mind, displaying the multitude of achievements the team had this season.

"As a team this year our greatest accomplishment was when we won the North Central Invitational at the beginning of the season," Andrews said.

Winning the North Central Invite was a major accomplishment for the team as, at the time, the Spartans were ranked fifth in the state and North Central was ranked above them.

In considering all of the aspects of tennis matches, the sport could be considered very individual or separate. However, the team believes its close relationships and encouragement for each other show the true joint effort of the team.

"One of our strengths is our team chemistry and how well we work together," Heiney said.

The team looks forward to next year where it hope to build a stronger focus and intent and reach its goal of getting through regionals, semi-state and on to state. Being on the team this year and creating strong relationships with each of the play ers has given the boys a different attitude on the court which has the potential fuel their drive and determination for next season.

designed by emma leininger

SPORTS

Star Stats: Fall Edition

Boys Soccer

Most burpees done in one practice: 160, everyone

Most goals: Samel Muslic (10) and Austin Johnston (11), 5

Least amount of times water bottle was brought to practice: Timmy Messal (12), 20%

Cause of most team sprints: Josh Holbrook (10), 12

Most own goals: Dan Matsyuk (12), 1

Most saves in season: Riley Krull (12), 54

Girls Soccer

Most "broken ankles" caused: Hannah Dolfuss (12), 144

Most in-game nutmegs: Isabel Wells (12), 12

Loudest yell: Kayla Amidon (10), 90 decibels

Most goals: Morgan Halliwill (9),

Most falls: Catie Flory (12), 56

Girls Cross Country

Most pukes in one race: Maddie Distelrath (11), 3

Most injuries in a season: Sarah Carter (11), 3

Most push-ups done in one practice: Kaitlyn Mueller (9), 50

Most races won: Grace Walther (12), 4

Most breadsticks eaten in one pasta party: Mary Landrigan (12), 18

Boys Cross Country

Biggest time drop: Alec Ramos (12), 2:16.2

Most races won: Brayden Law (12), 4

Most injuries sustained while still running: Luke Rose (12), 5

Most bathroom breaks in one practice: Marc Gibble (12), 4

Most pairs of colorful running shorts: Michael Conte (12), 9

Football

Most total yards: Austin Krider (12), 1112

Most times tackled from behind: Jonah Watson (12), 10

Most rushing touchdowns: Landon Durnell (12), 11

Most total tackles: Hunter Terrell (11), 65

Most sacks: Moses Girardot (11) and Tico Brown (10), 6

Tennis

Most shirts taken off in practice: Solomon Duncan (11), 11

Most balls hit over fence per practice: Grant Marsh (9), 4

Most wins: Will Milne (10) and Jordan Andrews (11), 17

Most wins against Carmel: Evan Castle (11), 1

Longest hair: Jordan Andrews (11), 14 inches

Volleyball

Most kills: Paige Eakright (12), 302

Most aces: Ella Machall (11), 55

Highest amount of dumb comments per match: Ella Machall (11), 2.75

Most digs: Abby Moore (12), 359

Most net violations per match: Kelsey Nutter (10), 3

Coaches expect too much dedication from players and their ability to be present for all events

Student athletes have a busy and hectic schedule that revolves around schoolwork, after-school practice, games and (if they're lucky) maybe a little sleep. Life during the school year can be difficult to balance when high school sports put so much pressure on the athletes to dedicate all of their time to the sport they are participating in.

Not only do athletes devote their entire summer, when they are supposed to be given a relief from school, to the sport they play, but they give large amounts of their time to the sport when school is in session as well. For the majority, practice is two to four hours after the conclusion of the school day. This could result in the student getting home anywhere from 5p.m. to 8p.m. at night, or sometimes even later. This results in homework being done later than other students, as well as any other tasks they have to do that night. This is a near daily routine for many students, unless they have a game, match or meet in which most players will end up staying after school and spending the rest of their night either at their own school or their opponent's. On nights like this, it is likely that the player will not be returning to their home until 9p.m. or 10p.m. When they finally have a chance to tackle their homework that was assigned that day. Teachers collectively assign anywhere from one to four hours of homework each night, which can keep a student awake until all hours of the morning when they are getting broken so late every day. In many cases a student will also need to eat dinner after a game as well as shower. This results in a very small amount of sleep each night, causing the player to be tired during school and practice the next day. Most coaches will not tolerate a player who has a lack of sleep, and will reprimand them for showing signs that they are tired, such as yawning or moving slower. Sometimes a player will be able to fix these things, but if they are just too tired and continue to show these signs, they could be punished.

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

The rule at Homestead is that a student can only play if they are passing five out of seven classes. While this is maintainable for some students, there are also athletes that need to devote more time to their classes in order to achieve acceptable grades, and these athletes do not have the time they need when their afternoons and weekends are taken up by the sport they play.

While it is important to be present at practices and games whenever possible, it should be considered acceptable by coaches that a student can miss practice for educational obligations. Athletes are always told that school should come before extra-curricular activities, but in recent years, this is not enforced by coaches. It has gone so far that coaches will punish a player that misses practice by sitting them out during a portion of a game, match or meet. Missing practice could be considered unacceptable when a team meets infrequently, but if practice is nearly every day after school then one or two practices out of at least 30 or 40 will not be destructive to the student's ability to play.

Student athletes do not only need to be dedicated to their sport during their school season, but they are also basically required to devote themselves to the sport during their entire summer vacation as well. While the students could be using this summer time for other things that benefit them educationally, such as summer gym or an online class for a required credit, or even just relaxing and enjoying the much-needed vacation, they instead are waking up early in the morning to spend hours on the court or field.

More pressure is put on players to do better every season, so the athletic standards are constantly rising, with more practices and more difficult conditioning every year ahead of them. For a majority of parents and people of their generation that went to college, there's a strong possibility that they would not be able to get into the college that they previously attended if they sent in their same application in now. Educational standards have been raised as well as athletic standards, and can put a student athlete in a position of constant stress and anxiety.

Because of the lack of sleep most players end up with, they are more susceptible to illness such as heart disease, high blood pressure or even stroke. For people with hypertension, one night of little to no sleep can cause elevated blood pressure all throughout the next day, according to Harvard Medical School. It can also cause decreased performance and alertness, which are two things all student athletes are required to maintain.

Students are also missing out on events that are important to them, so they can be at events that are important to their coaches. Players will often not be able to attend prior commitments such as weddings, family events or pre-scheduled appointments all for the sake of a sporting event. Some students are also at the age where it is acceptable for them to have a job, but are not able to do so because all of their free time is taken up by their sport. It is difficult for players to make their own money without careful planning.

All in all, school sports should be more of a hobby to a student who is also in school full time, and less like a full-time job or commitment.

PHOTO BY LOGAN MULLINIX

Maddie Distelrath (11) and Kelsey Batt (11) lead the team in the beginning of the sectional race at Northrop High School

Girls cross country finishes strong in the regular season and pushes to state

BY WILLOW PIERCE
Writer

"There is no success greater than that of the team. We all have individual successes throughout the season, but they culminate in team success. Without the team there is no sport. We run for each other as much as we do for ourselves. The team score is derived from individual finishes, so while the act of running may be individual the whole team contributes to success." - Grace Walther (12)

For the girls' cross country team, this year has been nothing but successful. With records broken and times becoming faster, the 39 girls on the team are excited to be running in the state race.

The Cross Country team, whose only event is to run a 5k for a time, often spend their days outside working on their stamina and speed. Practices during the week consist of an average 50 miles of running per week, although it varies depending on the athlete. Along with the long run they do on Mondays, the girls do interval and tempo workouts throughout the week with recovery days on Wednesday and Friday.

With the many practices each week, the girls have grown closer.

"There's just an amazing team dynamic this year. Everyone gets along and supports each other," Kelsey Batt (11) said.

Although their practices are long and difficult, the results prove their importance.

"We are poised for great success as a team this season. Everyone has worked hard this year to improve upon their individual weaknesses and as a team we have become a much stronger, more driven and competitive group." Walther, a senior on the team who has been running since 6th grade, said.

With a time of 18:04 on her 5k, Walther has broken both the school record (18:47), and the senior record (19:27) during her time on the team. Batt is another athlete who has improved her run throughout the season. At state last year, she ran a 20:48, but this year she has improved her time to a 19:09, which also breaks the junior record.

With the runners' personal times improving, the team is doing well compared to competing schools. The team has improved their ranking this year, making it the highest it has ever been, at fifteenth place. "(It's) fan-freaking-tastic!" Batt said, "(We are) ranked higher in state than we've ever been."

Sara Wyss, head coach and teacher at Homestead, has been coaching for 25 years. She and the team believe they have what it takes to win state tomorrow.

"When the gun goes off, you're in it for the full game," Wyss said, and the girls all agree.

The girls' cross country team has been in the state finals 10 consecutive times, 13 years in total and the girls realize that they have tradition to hold up. Each year it's their goal to place higher and higher in the rankings.

"Cross country is not a class sport, so you run with the big schools and the little schools, and you have great little schools, and fantastic big schools, so there is no class division and it's truly a state championship," Wyss said.

Even with the season winding down, the girls continue to show support for each other.

"We're sisters in sport and best friends on and off the trails," Batt said.

Boys tennis finishes their season with grueling regional match

Boys varsity tennis team ends season with a crushing defeat against Leo

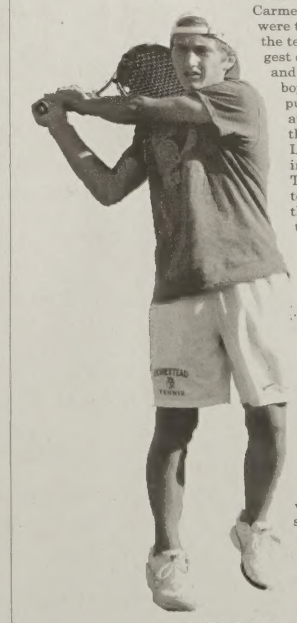
BY EMMA LEININGER
Social Media Manager

As the boys tennis team entered into the last few most crucial matches of the season, they had their eyes set on state. With a strong offense and great team chemistry, the team was focused on finishing their matches and attacking each game.

"One of our weaknesses could be finishing our matches," David Heiney (9) said. Usually we get done with the first set, into the second set, and then we die out, get tired or have to win in the third when we could just finish in the second."

Despite the high expectations the team fell short, ending the season in the second game of regionals against Leo with a score of 3-2.

"Our main goal for the season was to get back to semi-state, but unfortunately that did not happen this year," Jordan Andrews (11) said. "(We) fell one match short."

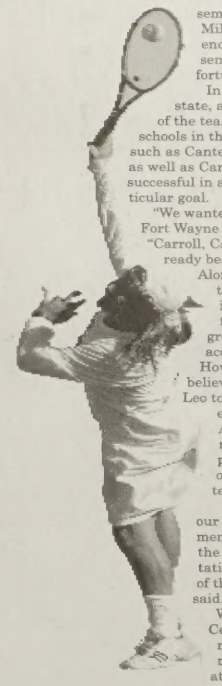


PHOTOS BY EMMA CESAR

Both Leo and Carmel High School were thought to be the team's strongest competitors and although the boys could not pull out the win at regionals, they did defeat Leo earlier on in the season. This was a true testament to the skill and talent of the team, and each member was proud of that win.

"I would say our greatest accomplishment this season, so far, was the win against Leo," Heiney said.

Although the team will not continue with its season, Andrews and doubles partner Will Milne (10), conquered over Leo and advanced to semi-state. However, Milne and Andrews ended their season at semi-state with an unfortunate loss to Carroll.



In spite of not reaching state, another major goal of the team was to defeat the schools in the surrounding area such as Canterbury High School as well as Carroll. The team was successful in achieving this particular goal.

"We wanted to beat the other Fort Wayne teams," Milne said. "Carroll, Canterbury, we already beat both of them."

Along those same lines, the team has had an incredible season filled with many group and individual accomplishments. However, while Heiney believed the win against Leo to be the team's greatest accomplishment, Andrews had another match in mind, displaying the multitude of achievements the team had this season.

"As a team this year our greatest accomplishment was when we won the North Central Invitational at the beginning of the season," Andrews said.

Winning the North Central Invite was a major accomplishment for the team as, at the time, the Spartans were ranked fifth in the state and North Central was ranked above them.

In considering all of the aspects of tennis matches, the sport could be considered very individual or separate. However, the team believes its close relationships and encouragement for each other show the true joint effort of the team.

"One of our strengths is our team chemistry and how well we work together," Heiney said.

The team looks forward to next year where it hope to build a stronger focus and intent and reach its goal of getting through regionals, semi-state and on to state. Being on the team this year and creating strong relationships with each of the play ers has given the boys a different attitude on the court which has the potential fuel their drive and determination for next season.

THE MOST WICKED WIG OF HHS

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON OF GHOSTS AND GHOULS, IT SEEMS FITTING TO GRANT ONE OF OUR OWN HEAD HONCHOS A CHANGE OF APPEARANCE. IF YOU HAVE EVER WONDERED WHAT PRINCIPAL PARK GINDER LOOKS LIKE WITH HAIR ATOP HIS HEAD, LOOK NO FURTHER. WIGS OF A WIDE VARIETY ARE PRESENTED, AND WE WANT YOU TO TELL US WHICH ONE MR. GINDER SHOULD TRY OUT THIS HALLOWEEN SATURDAY.

GINDER'S GROOMER

R.I.P.

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE AT HHSSPARTANA.COM OR TWEET US @THESPARTANA!

the SPARTANA

issue three
volume forty five
december 4, 2015
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

2INSIDENOW

NEWS
Debunked analyzes myth of tunnel network running under school with help of Steve Lake, assistant principal. 2

LIFE
Astronomy class successful in inaugural year. Step-by-step guide to survive Black Friday Shopping this year. 4

FEATURE
Graduates-turned-teachers reflect on why they returned to teach where they graduated. 8

OPINION
Left and Right: Writers present varying viewpoints over timeliness of holiday celebrations during month of Nov. 3

SPORTS
Q&A with nationally competitive cross country runner. College commits weigh in on decision-making process. 6

ONLINE
visit www.hhsspartana.com.
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

www.hhsspartana.com A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Once a Always a SPARTAN PAGE 8

Shooting with the Stars

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

ABOVE: The 2013-2014 boys basketball season was successful, but paled to the state-winning season that followed. BELOW: Meanwhile, the girls team built up its roster of underclassmen, ending the 2014-2015 season as the state runner-up.

Basketball teams prepare to uphold momentum of previous seasons

BOYS

VARSITY ROSTER
2015-2016

02	Jake Wolfcale
04	Ivory Wilson
10	Jack Ferguson
12	Tahj Curry
14	Chase Neiswonger
20	Parker Manges
24	TeRon Taylor
30	Eric Martin
32	Sam Buck
42	Brandon Durnell

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

GIRLS

VARSITY ROSTER
2015-2016

02	Kara Gealy
04	Madisen Parker
10	Teryn Kline
12	Karissa McLaughlin
14	Nicole Weaver
20	Savannah Buck
22	Tomi Taiwo
24	Lauren Cunningham
30	Haley Swing
32	Lindley Kistler
34	Jazmyne Geist
42	Brianna Lucas

Coming into a new season with high expectations is typical for any sports team. For the Lady Spartans, though, the pressure is at an all-time high. After suffering a defeat in the state finals last season to the Columbus North Bulldogs, the Lady Spartans have retained most of their starting roster. Savannah Buck (12), a University of Saint Francis commit, Lindley Kistler (12), an Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne commit, and Karissa McLaughlin (11), a University of Florida commit, have worked to help the team seal the number two spot in MaxPrep's Class 4A rankings. Off to a 4-0 start, the Lady Spartans have won every game thus far by a margin of more than 29 points.

While the boys team has been included in the top 25 Class 4A teams in the state, its varsity roster includes several new faces. Tahj Curry (12) and Jake Wolfcale (12) return as state champions, while fellow senior Eric Martin joins the team as a rookie. Adams Central transfer TeRon Taylor (12) has the potential to prove to be a steady addition to the Spartans' roster. A new #BenchMob has also made its debut, cheering on the team alongside the student section.

PHOTO BY LOGAN MULLINIX

LEFT: Nicole Weaver (12) dribbles down the court against Marion. MIDDLE: The girls huddle up before playing the Giants. RIGHT: Madisen Parker (11) looks for a pass.

THE MOST WICKED WIG OF HHS

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON OF GHOSTS AND GHOULS, IT SEEMS FITTING TO GRANT ONE OF OUR OWN HEAD HONCHOS A CHANGE OF APPEARANCE. IF YOU HAVE EVER WONDERED WHAT PRINCIPAL PARK GINDER LOOKS LIKE WITH HAIR ATOP HIS HEAD, LOOK NO FURTHER. WIGS OF A WIDE VARIETY ARE PRESENTED, AND WE WANT YOU TO TELL US WHICH ONE MR. GINDER SHOULD TRY OUT THIS HALLOWEEN SATURDAY.

GINDER'S GROOMER

R.I.P.

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE AT HHSSPARTANA.COM OR TWEET US @THESPARTANA!

the SPARTANA

issue three
volume forty five
december 4, 2015
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

INSIDENOW

NEWS Debunked analyzes myth of tunnel network running under school with help of Steve Lake, assistant principal. 2

LIFE Astronomy class successful in inaugural year. Step-by-step guide to survive Black Friday Shopping this year. 4

FEATURE Graduates-turned-teachers reflect on why they returned to teach where they graduated. 8

OPINION Left and Right: Writers present varying viewpoints over timeliness of holiday celebrations during month of Nov. 3

SPORTS Q&A with nationally competitive cross country runner. College commits weigh in on decision-making process. 6

ONLINE visit www.hhsspartana.com.
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

www.hhsspartana.com A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Once a Always a SPARTAN PAGE 8

Shooting with the Stars

ABOVE: The 2013-2014 boys basketball season was successful, but paled to the state-winning season that followed. BELOW: Meanwhile, the girls team built up its roster of underclassmen, ending the 2014-2015 season as the state runner-up.

Basketball teams prepare to uphold momentum of previous seasons

BOYS

VARSITY ROSTER
2015-2016

02	Jake Wolfcale
04	Ivory Wilson
10	Jack Ferguson
12	Tahj Curry
14	Chase Neiswonger
20	Parker Manges
24	TeRon Taylor
30	Eric Martin
32	Sam Buck
42	Brandon Durnell

GIRLS

VARSITY ROSTER
2015-2016

02	Kara Gealy
04	Madisen Parker
10	Teryn Kline
12	Karissa McLaughlin
14	Nicole Weaver
20	Savannah Buck
22	Tomi Taiwo
24	Lauren Cunningham
30	Haley Swing
32	Lindley Kistler
34	Jazmyne Geist
42	Brianna Lucas

Coming into a new season with high expectations is typical for any sports team. For the Lady Spartans, though, the pressure is at an all-time high. After suffering a defeat in the state finals last season to the Columbus North Bulldogs, the Lady Spartans have retained most of their starting roster. Savannah Buck (12), a University of Saint Francis commit, Lindley Kistler (12), an Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne commit, and Karissa McLaughlin (11), a University of Florida commit, have worked to help the team seal the number two spot in MaxPrep's Class 4A rankings. Off to a 4-0 start, the Lady Spartans have won every game thus far by a margin of more than 29 points.

While the boys team has been included in the top 25 Class 4A teams in the state, its varsity roster includes several new faces. Tahj Curry (12) and Jake Wolfcale (12) return as state champions, while fellow senior Eric Martin joins the team as a rookie. Adams Central transfer TeRon Taylor (12) has the potential to prove to be a steady addition to the Spartans' roster. A new #BenchMob has also made its debut, cheering on the team alongside the student section.

LEFT: Nicole Weaver (12) dribbles down the court against Marion. MIDDLE: The girls huddle up before playing the Giants. RIGHT: Madisen Parker (11) looks for a pass.

BRIEFS

Students who took the PSAT in Oct. will receive test results by mid-Dec. in Advisory.

Austin Render (12) and Kolin Davis (12) each placed first at the Terri Hemmert High School Student Radio & Audio Awards at the High School and College Radio Conference at Columbia College Chicago on Oct. 17.

Jan. 21 will be a designated snow make up day.

SACS Special Education Parent Group will meet Jan. 29 in the district transportation room at 12:30 p.m. All community members are invited.

Semi-Formal will be held in the cafeteria Dec. 19 at 7:00 p.m. Guest forms must be turned in to the discipline office by Dec. 9. Tickets are available at all lunches for $15.

Kylie Poling (12) received a Super Rating in Sports Writing at the National High School Journalism Convention.

Student Services office will close at 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 18 until 7:00 a.m. on Jan. 4. Parchment transcript requests must be filed before 1:00 p.m. Dec. 18 to meet Jan. 1 deadlines.

DEBUNKED: TUNNELS?

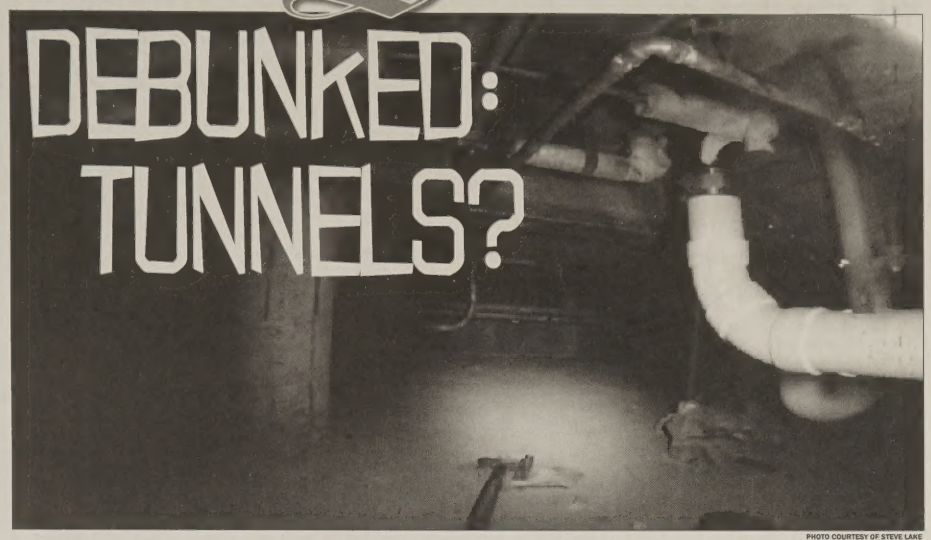


PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE LAKE

Steve Lake, assistant principal, investigates the tunnels with a GoPro, encountering surprises including writing on the wall and a baby doll.

Myth: There are several tunnels underneath the school.

Status: True!

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Down the hallway towards the 500s wing, there is a door with a sign that says "Tunnel Access." There is also a similar door near the 700s wing.

Many have speculated what lies beyond these doors, but inside both doors open into simple janitor closets and some pipework. However, recently uncovered, there is a panel beneath the pipes that lead to tunnels that connect the two closets.

The special education sector, in addition to few other classrooms, used to be an elementary school during the 1960s while the rest of the high school was being built around it.

The tunnels were originally in place in case of rocket fire from around the globe, but once the high school was finished, the elementary school moved to Aboite, and the tunnels were retired since they could no longer protect the entire student body.

Some may have noticed how the tiles in the 700s wing are a different color, older and duller.

If one follows these tiles, they lead through the special education hallway, through the TV studio (even though that area is carpeted), and back into the 500s wing by the cafeteria before connecting up to the other tunnel door.

The tunnels lie directly beneath all of these old tiles. The reason there are ramps from the main hallway to those classrooms is so students walk over the tunnels.

Last month, in order to help with the investigation regarding the tunnels, Steve Lake, assistant principal, obtained permits and safety gear and dove with a GoPro into the tunnels.

He returned safely an hour later with footage of what he found down there, including pipeworks, graffiti and a baby doll. These videos can be seen now on hhsspartana.com.

Do you have a rumor to disprove or a myth to debunk? Send any suspicious leads to thespartana@gmail.com with a subject line "POSSIBLE DEBUNKED", and your questions might be answered next issue.

City readies for Holidayfest among improvement plans

Fort Wayne looking for greater appeal among young crowds through beautification and more dining options

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-in-Chief

In an effort to increase its relevancy amongst younger generations at risk for moving out of the Fort Wayne area, the city has proposed a horde of long-term renovations.

Among these renovations includes an improved arts district, a waterfront boardwalk and surrounding area built along the city's rivers, and a dining district along the proposed boardwalk.

While these improvements will be years in the making, the city has revamped its holiday festivities for the current winter season. At the Festival of Gingerbread, architects used gingerbread as a medium to display to visitors what the downtown district may look like once complete.

Existing businesses are participating in the city's ploys to attract more visitors downtown as well. The Downtown Holiday Window Decorating Contest, sponsored by Downtown Fort Wayne, opened voting on Nov. 25, the same day as the Night of Lights, which saw the lighting of Christmas lights along various buildings throughout the city.

The Festival of Trees closed Dec. 2 with a community sing-along at the Embassy Theatre led by the Fort Wayne Children's Choir, directed by Jonathan Busarow. The Fort Wayne Ballet has contributed to the holiday cheer with its annual performance of The Nutcracker.

The Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society will once again host a Santa Claus train, allowing children a chance to ride in an old caboose car with their beloved holiday character. 3,500 tickets were sold within 24 hours, bringing up interesting prospectives for the Railroad Historical Society in the future. The society has proposed to allow a 765 engine to pull passenger cars throughout the area.

Improvement ideas have abounded in the past year; however, these ideas have a renewed relevancy with the city's determination to attract more visitors and potential immigrants. Holiday attractions bring the visitors, but the long-lasting improvements will be the test for increasing the population of Fort Wayne.

Marching band places third at ISSMA State Finals

Spartan Alliance Band wraps up season in Indianapolis, prepares for winter music performance groups

BY ARIKA AKIN
Writer

While marching band season is over, music programs continue for students.

Marching band season is officially over, and their performance "Poiesis: An Act of Creation" has been put to rest. This arrangement sought to tell the story of creation, using props and emotional music.

On Nov. 7, the marching band won third in the Class A state finals for the ISSMA marching band competition. Even though the band was defeated by Avon and Carmel for the third year in a row, students are still happy about their placing.

Not winning first or second "kind of sucks," according to Thomas Berkshire (12), tuba player, "but we did the best that we could do." However, the band does not "care how (they) placed, (they) only care that (they) did well."

Students, even ones proud of their placing and how the show went overall, still acknowledge that not everything is going to go perfectly.

"Obviously there's going to be issues in any show," Allison Stevens (10), saxophone player, said. "Obviously some people are still not marching it as well, but it was still really good. Everyone was a lot better than we were at the beginning of the year."

Third place is nothing to scoff at. In a competition that pairs down over 23 class A bands from all around Indiana, any placing is something to be proud of, especially with the marching band's history.

> **"I feel relieved, it's been a long three years. I feel more relaxed, but I do know that I'm going to miss (band)."**
>
> **LUIS ORTIZ (12)**
> *Tuba Player*

The Spartan Alliance Band has qualified for Class A ISSMA state finals for 22 years in a row, and has been awarded first place five times, most recently in 2011.

"We gave it our all," Luis Ortiz (12), tuba player, said. "Everyone did everything that they were supposed to do. We all did our jobs, and we just left it all out on the field. That's really all that we can do."

ISSMA is not the only competition that the marching band has participated in this month. The band won 12th place at the Bands of America competition on Nov. 21. The band performed twice, once for semifinals and once for finals.

"It's tough competition," Stevens said. "Last year we made finals and it was amazing. It was a great experience."

Now that the season is over, students have begun to decide what to participate in next year. Anonymous Blue, the accompaniment to show choir, held auditions were on Nov. 16. Students can also participate in the pep band, jazz band or concert band.

"This is probably going to be my last chance at having a music career, so I'm trying to get a lot more involved," Ortiz said.

Now that band season is over, students revel in their increase in free time.

"I feel relieved, it's been a long three years," Ortiz said. "I feel more relaxed, but I do know that I'm going to miss (band)."

Pop star-themed app addictive, destructive to teens

Over the years, thousands of articles have been and continue to be written for print over the effect of violent video games on kids. Years of debate over the effect of violent video on players has not found a clear settlement if there is a link, but addictive games are a hidden problem as well.

I have never had an interest in video games or an infatuation with Demi Lovato. Demi Lovato: Path to Fame was the obvious choice to investigate the effect of addictive games due to the popularity of the app.

The developers behind Demi Lovato: Path to Fame are the brains behind the wildly popular Kim Kardashian: Hollywood. The games supposedly allow players to "choose their paths" as to the events in the story, but after playing the game three times over, I found the story does not change regardless of the decisions the character makes.

Every player will need to sabotage a fellow singer's career and every player will not have enough money to do anything unless if the player uses real money to buy computer clothes to impress computer people. Not to echo a helicopter parent, but the values the game teaches are not of good use. I think all I learned on a personal level is to do anything for the fame—to impress other people for value. Surely, this is a game. But the mindset the player adapts from hour after hour of "never being good enough" in this world is deteriorating, and bled over life to real life.

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

This game is addictive. This is a matter of self-control which differs between individuals, but I did consider on a regular basis playing the game secretly in class. I could not think about trig, the only math on my mind was how high my fan count would go if I publicly broke up with my digital boyfriend, Taylor. All that had value to me was my fake music career.

Nevertheless, a form of a real-life existential crisis hit me. Three love interests, Taylor, Alex and Sam were in arms over me, where in real life, I did not attend prom with a date. I felt special when virtual Demi Lovato would talk to me. I purposely did create my virtual best friend, whom I came to name "Fettuccine," to be ugly in order for the eyes to stay on me. Surely, my real life would never be exciting as the Demi Lovato tour.

> **"I purposely did create my virtual best friend, whom I came to name "Fettuccine," to be ugly in order for the eyes to stay on me."**

The fame did change me. When my character unlocked a popular Miami designer's "touch of plaid look," it was as if the new clothes changed my character, who in turn, changed my own character.

Demi's entourage has a malicious effect on my life in both the game and real world. I am now addicted to the limelight and drama. I listen to Demi Lovato's music and instantly go bitter and consider stealing someone else's man. These are the effects on me, an 18 year old college-bound student.

Do not take this game so seriously. If you are spending actual money to impress virtual boys, please reflect and realize you are in too deep. The best way to approach the Demi game or any other game really is to keep a distance and relax. Learn to have fun. A fun game does not make the player angry after closing the app.

LEFT and Write

Should Christmas be celebrated in the month of November?

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

Christmas is not meant to be celebrated in November. Radio stations have 24/7 holiday music playing the second the clock hits Nov. 1; however, what these people fail to realize is there are still many things that lie between them and their beloved holiday of Christmas.

Some of these things happen to be a season change, about 55 days and an entirely separate holiday, which happens to be quite important.

Every year after Christmas is over, there is a huge group of people who complain about Christmas not feeling like Christmas. A big reason for this could be that the anticipation has been built up for this one day for almost two months.

Christmas loses its feel when it is celebrated for more than the time it is in season. In this case, it could be seen as too much of a good thing. It is like buying a nice, expensive shirt.

If a person wears the shirt every day, it isn't as appealing as it would be if they waited for a special occasion. If you celebrate Christmas months ahead of time, it doesn't feel as special when it finally comes around.

In doing this, people also fail to appreciate the holiday of Thanksgiving. This holiday is important to many, and is often overlooked in the hustle and bustle of Christmas-time.

The entire second half of autumn is overlooked, to be honest. There is the initial excitement over pumpkin flavored drinks, and being able to wear sweaters and boots, but after Halloween people seem to forget all of these concepts and move straight into a holiday that hasn't even come yet.

People will often say that autumn passed by quickly, but this is because a majority of people overlook the season once Halloween is over, and get right into Christmas.

The image of Christmas usually consists of snow on the ground and in the air, cold weather, not having school, and seeing family. Possibly the reason Christmas never 'feels like Christmas,' is because people create the image of Christmas in November, and eventually they view 'Christmas-time' as the temperature dropping ten degrees and a time change.

Many Christmas decorations have a reasonable time frame as well. Calendars start on December first.

ABC Family's '25 Days of Christmas' is only twenty-five days long, and even Christmas trees only live so long before they start to die. These decorations should not be up long enough that they feel like a part of the house. They should remind the people in the house that Christmas is happening soon. Once a person stops realizing the decorations are only there for a short period of time, they lose their purpose and they lose an aspect of the Christmas feeling.

Christmas movies are also a big part of the problem. Anyone who watches Christmas movies anytime besides right around Christmas-time is ruining the Christmas feel that the movies are supposed to provide. If a person watches the Christmas classes 'Elf' in June, they are going to watch it again in December and not feel any different, which is a problem because Christmas movies are meant to get people in the spirit of the holidays.

This is why companies release Christmas-themed drinks and products only for a short period of time, and not all year round. There wouldn't be anything special about these products if they were available all year. They would not be considered holiday drinks at this point, just drinks.

Overall, Christmas has a time and place to be celebrated, and that time and place is most definitely not in November.

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

The very first day of November radio stations put up a holiday station with Christmas music all day long.

Neighborhoods and shops have already begun decorating for the upcoming holiday season.

There are people who believe it is too early to start celebrating this joyous holiday, but there are many reasons as to why we should.

Christmas is a holiday that brings people together and spreads joy throughout everyone. People enjoy this holiday and want to celebrate as soon as they can.

Just because it is not December does not mean decorations can't be brought out or Christmas music listened to.

By hearing music on the radio or seeing Christmas lights around it brings out the holiday spirit. The music played on the radio is played on a specific station made only for holiday music.

Anyone who wants to listen to it may or may not but just because others do not want to listen doesn't mean it is too early to play it. Christmas music is not only festive, but is relaxing for people to listen to.

When listening to these songs it brings over a sense of relaxation and happiness. If these songs were not categorized as "Christmas songs" then there would be no debate on the appropriate time to play them.

When it comes to Christmas movies there are millions to choose from. TV channels, such as Hallmark, have already started playing Christmas movies.

Because it is not the month of December, people criticize this and say the channel should not be playing Christmas movies this early.

Christmas movies can be categorized as any film associated with winter or some aspect of the holiday season. These movies are for pure enjoyment as are films in general.

By saying you shouldn't watch Christmas movies because it is not Christmas yet is like saying you should not watch horror movies because it is not Halloween.

Christmas movies also build up the excitement for the holiday to come which raises the spirit of people.

As stated before, malls have also begun decorating their stores for the holidays. Since multiple people visit a mall daily, these decorations are suppose to remind shoppers of the upcoming holiday.

People who are out shopping could have motivation to begin Christmas shopping, or just admire the decorations.

This is a much anticipated holiday that many people worldwide look forward too so seeing decorations a four-five weeks early is no issue. You can appreciate the decorations longer than if no one started putting them up until only about 2 weeks before.

Christmas is always associated with snow and cold temperature. As this is true in most cases, Mother Nature does not always work that way. The end of October and into November is when there is a change in the weather. This stimulates the excitement for winter and the holiday that follows: Christmas. People argue that since there may not be snow yet, it is not Christmas season. That should not make a difference because some years it snows as early as October and others as late as January. Everyone says that it is not Christmas without snow but in reality snow or not it is still Christmas season.

Christmas is one of the most popular holidays and is anticipated for all year by millions of people. To start playing Christmas music, putting up decorations or even watching holiday movies just a few weeks early is not a problem. Holiday celebrations, no longer the time, not only brightens people's spirits but also gets everyone excited for the upcoming festivities.

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECTUIVE EDITOR
TESSA VIRGILIO

COPY EDITOR
ETHAN ZWEIG

ONLINE EDITORS
Mallory McCauley
Adam Swiatkowski

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

ADVISER
Teresa Nowak

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl
Willow Pierce

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

PHOTOGRAPHER
Pawandeep Bola

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a montly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

designed by michal spanjer

NEWS

BRIEFS

Students who took the PSAT in Oct. will receive test results by mid-Dec. in Advisory.

Austin Render (12) and Kolin Davis (12) each placed first at the Terri Hemmert High School Student Radio & Audio Awards at the High School and College Radio Conference at Columbia College Chicago on Oct. 17.

Jan. 21 will be a designated snow make up day.

SACS Special Education Parent Group will meet Jan. 29 in the district transportation room at 12:30 p.m. All community members are invited.

Semi-Formal will be held in the cafeteria Dec. 19 at 7:00 p.m. Guest forms must be turned in to the discipline office by Dec. 9. Tickets are available at all lunches for $15.

Kylie Poling (12) received a Super Rating in Sports Writing at the National High School Journalism Convention.

Student Services office will close at 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 18 until 7:00 a.m. on Jan. 4. Parchment transcript requests must be filed before 1:00 p.m. Dec. 18 to meet Jan. 1 deadlines.

DEBUNKED: TUNNELS?

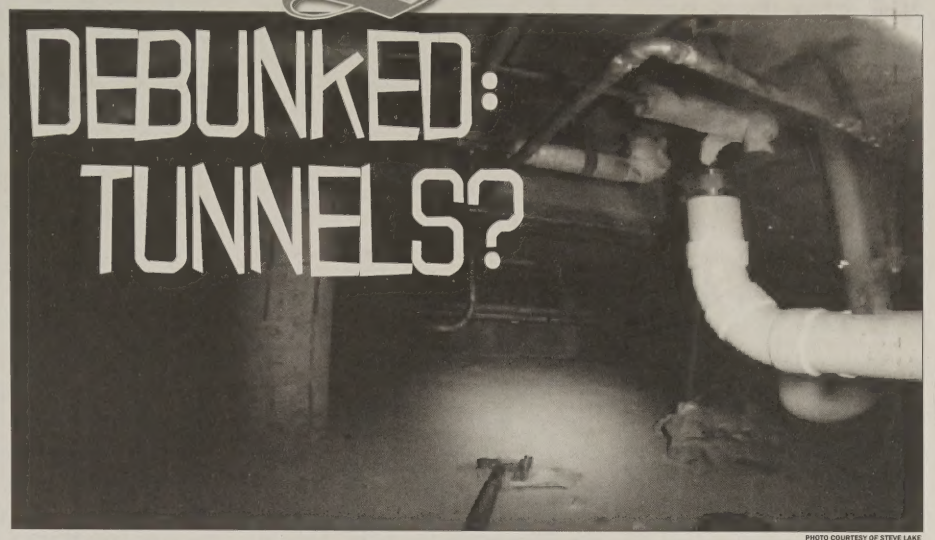


PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE LAKE

Steve Lake, assistant principal, investigates the tunnels with a GoPro, encountering surprises including writing on the wall and a baby doll.

Myth: There are several tunnels underneath the school.

Status: True!

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Down the hallway towards the 500s wing, there is a door with a sign that says "Tunnel Access." There is also a similar door near the 700s wing.

Many have speculated what lies beyond these doors, but inside both doors open into simple janitor closets and some pipework. However, recently uncovered, there is a panel beneath the pipes that lead to tunnels that connect the two closets.

The special education sector, in addition to few other classrooms, used to be an elementary school during the 1960s while the rest of the high school was being built around it.

The tunnels were originally in place in case of rocket fire from around the globe, but once the high school was finished, the elementary school moved to Aboite, and the tunnels were retired since they could no longer protect the entire student body.

Some may have noticed how the tiles in the 700s wing are a different color, older and duller.

If one follows these tiles, they lead through the special education hallway, through the TV studio (even though that area is carpeted), and back into the 500s wing by the cafeteria before connecting up to the other tunnel door.

The tunnels lie directly beneath all of these old tiles. The reason there are ramps from the main hallway to those classrooms is so students walk over the tunnels.

Last month, in order to help with the investigation regarding the tunnels, Steve Lake, assistant principal, obtained permits and safety gear and dove with a GoPro into the tunnels.

He returned safely an hour later with footage of what he found down there, including pipeworks, graffiti and a baby doll. These videos can be seen now on hhsspartana.com.

Do you have a rumor to disprove or a myth to debunk? Send any suspicious leads to thespartana@gmail.com with a subject line "POSSIBLE DEBUNKED", and your questions might be answered next issue.

City readies for Holidayfest among improvement plans

Fort Wayne looking for greater appeal among young crowds through beautification and more dining options

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-in-Chief

In an effort to increase its relevancy amongst younger generations at risk for moving out of the Fort Wayne area, the city has proposed a horde of long-term renovations.

Among these renovations includes an improved arts district, a waterfront boardwalk and surrounding area built along the city's rivers, and a dining district along the proposed boardwalk.

While these improvements will be years in the making, the city has revamped its holiday festivities for the current winter season. At the Festival of Gingerbread, architects used gingerbread as a medium to display to visitors what the downtown district may look like once complete.

Existing businesses are participating in the city's ploys to attract more visitors downtown as well. The Downtown Holiday Window Decorating Contest, sponsored by Downtown Fort Wayne, opened voting on Nov. 25, the same day as the Night of Lights, which saw the lighting of Christmas lights along various buildings throughout the city.

The Festival of Trees closed Dec. 2 with a community sing-along at the Embassy Theatre led by the Fort Wayne Children's Choir, directed by Jonathan Busarow. The Fort Wayne Ballet has contributed to the holiday cheer with its annual performance of The Nutcracker.

The Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society will once again host a Santa Claus train, allowing children a chance to ride in an old caboose car with their beloved holiday character. 3,500 tickets were sold within 24 hours, bringing up interesting prospectives for the Railroad Historical Society in the future. The society has proposed to allow a 765 engine to pull passenger cars throughout the area.

Improvement ideas have abounded in the past year; however, these ideas have a renewed relevancy with the city's determination to attract more visitors and potential immigrants. Holiday attractions bring the visitors, but the long-lasting improvements will be the test for increasing the population of Fort Wayne.

Marching band places third at ISSMA State Finals

Spartan Alliance Band wraps up season in Indianapolis, prepares for winter music performance groups

BY ARIKA AKIN
Writer

While marching band season is over, music programs continue for students.

Marching band season is officially over, and their performance "Poiesis: An Act of Creation" has been put to rest. This arrangement sought to tell the story of creation, using props and emotional music.

On Nov. 7, the marching band won third in the Class A state finals for the ISSMA marching band competition. Even though the band was defeated by Avon and Carmel for the third year in a row, students are still happy about their placing.

Not winning first or second "kind of sucks," according to Thomas Berkshire (12), tuba player, "but we did the best that we could do." However, the band does not "care how (they) placed, (they) only care that (they) did well."

Students, even ones proud of their placing and how the show went overall, still acknowledge that not everything is going to go perfectly.

"Obviously there's going to be issues in any show," Allison Stevens (10), saxophone player, said. "Obviously some people are still not marching it as well, but it was still really good. Everyone was a lot better than we were at the beginning of the year."

Third place is nothing to scoff at. In a competition that pairs down over 23 class A bands from all around Indiana, any placing is something to be proud of, especially with the marching band's history.

> **"I feel relieved, it's been a long three years. I feel more relaxed, but I do know that I'm going to miss (band)."**
>
> **LUIS ORTIZ (12)**
> *Tuba Player*

The Spartan Alliance Band has qualified for Class A ISSMA state finals for 22 years in a row, and has been awarded first place five times, most recently in 2011.

"We gave it our all," Luis Ortiz (12), tuba player, said. "Everyone did everything that they were supposed to do. We all did our jobs, and we just left it all out on the field. That's really all that we can do."

ISSMA is not the only competition that the marching band has participated in this month. The band won 12th place at the Bands of America competition on Nov. 21. The band performed twice, once for semifinals and once for finals.

"It's tough competition," Stevens said. "Last year we made finals and it was amazing. It was a great experience."

Now that the season is over, students have begun to decide what to participate in next year. Anonymous Blue, the accompaniment to show choir, held auditions were on Nov. 16. Students can also participate in the pep band, jazz band or concert band.

"This is probably going to be my last chance at having a music career, so I'm trying to get a lot more involved," Ortiz said.

Now that band season is over, students revel in their increase in free time.

"I feel relieved, it's been a long three years," Ortiz said. "I feel more relaxed, but I do know that I'm going to miss (band)."

designed by kylie poling

OPINION

Pop star-themed app addictive, destructive to teens

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

Over the years, thousands of articles have been and continue to be written for print over the effect of violent video games on kids. Years of debate over the effect of violent video games has not found a clear settlement if there is a link, but addictive games are a hidden problem as well.

I have never had an interest in video games or an infatuation with Demi Lovato. Demi Lovato: Path to Fame was the obvious choice to investigate the effect of addictive games due to the popularity of the app.

The developers behind Demi Lovato: Path to Fame are the brains behind the wildly popular Kim Kardashian: Hollywood. The games supposedly allow players to "choose their paths" as to the events in the story, but after playing the game three times over, I found the story does not change regardless of the decisions the character makes.

Every player will need to sabotage a fellow singer's career and every player will not have enough money to do anything unless if the player uses real money to buy computer clothes to impress computer people. Not to echo a helicopter parent, but the values the game teaches are not of good use. I think all I learned on a personal level is to do anything for the fame—to impress other people for value. Surely, this is a game. But the mindset the player adapts from hour after hour of "never being good enough" in this world is deteriorating, and bled over life to real life.

This game is addictive. This is a matter of self-control which differs between individuals, but I did consider on a regular basis playing the game secretly in class. I could not think about trig, the only math on my mind was how high my fan count would go if I publicly broke up with my digital boyfriend, Taylor. All that had value to me was my fake music career.

Nevertheless, a form of a real-life existential crisis hit me. Three love interests, Taylor, Alex and Sam were in arms over me, where in real life, I did not attend prom with a date. I felt special when virtual Demi Lovato would talk to me. I purposely did create my virtual best friend, whom I came to name "Fettuccine," to be ugly in order for the eyes to stay on me. Surely, my real life would never be exciting as the Demi Lovato tour.

> **"I purposely did create my virtual best friend, whom I came to name "Fettuccine," to be ugly in order for the eyes to stay on me."**

The fame did change me. When my character unlocked a popular Miami designer's "touch of plaid look," it was as if the new clothes changed my character, who in turn, changed my own character.

Demi's entourage has a malicious effect on my life in both the game and real world. I am now addicted to the limelight and drama. I listen to Demi Lovato's music and instantly go bitter and consider stealing someone else's man. These are the effects on me, an 18 year old college-bound student.

Do not take this game so seriously. If you are spending actual money to impress virtual boys, please reflect and realize you are in too deep. The best way to approach the Demi game or any other game really is to keep a distance and relax. Learn to have fun. A fun game does not make the player angry after closing the app.

LEFT and Write

Should Christmas be celebrated in the month of November?

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

Christmas is not meant to be celebrated in November. Radio stations have 24/7 holiday music playing the second the clock hits Nov. 1; however, what these people fail to realize is there are still many things that lie between them and their beloved holiday of Christmas.

Some of these things happen to be a season change, about 55 days and an entirely separate holiday, which happens to be quite important.

Every year after Christmas is over, there is a huge group of people who complain about Christmas not feeling like Christmas. A big reason for this could be that the anticipation has been built up for this one day for almost two months.

Christmas loses its feel when it is celebrated for more than the time it is in season. In this case, it could be seen as too much of a good thing. It is like buying a nice, expensive shirt.

If a person wears the shirt every day, it isn't as appealing as it would be if they waited for a special occasion. If you celebrate Christmas months ahead of time, it doesn't feel as special when it finally comes around.

In doing this, people also fail to appreciate the holiday of Thanksgiving. This holiday is important to many, and is often overlooked in the hustle and bustle of Christmas-time.

The entire second half of autumn is overlooked, to be honest. There is the initial excitement over pumpkin flavored drinks, and being able to wear sweaters and boots, but after Halloween people seem to forget all of these concepts and move straight into a holiday that hasn't even come yet.

People will often say that autumn passed by quickly, but this is because a majority of people overlook the season once Halloween is over, and get right into Christmas.

The image of Christmas usually consists of snow on the ground and in the air, cold weather, not having school, and seeing family. Possibly the reason Christmas never 'feels like Christmas,' is because people create the image of Christmas in November, and eventually they view 'Christmas-time' as the temperature dropping ten degrees and a time change.

Many Christmas decorations have a reasonable time frame as well. Calendars start on December first,

ABC Family's '25 Days of Christmas' is only twenty-five days long, and even Christmas trees only live so long before they start to die. These decorations should not be up long enough that they feel like a part of the house. They should remind the people in the house that Christmas is happening soon. Once a person stops realizing the decorations are only there for a short period of time, they lose their purpose and they lose an aspect of the Christmas feeling.

Christmas movies are also a big part of the problem. Anyone who watches Christmas movies anytime besides right around Christmas-time is ruining the Christmas feel that the movies are supposed to provide. If a person watches the Christmas classes 'Elf' in June, they are going to watch it again in December and not feel any different, which is a problem because Christmas movies are meant to get people in the spirit of the holidays.

This is why companies release Christmas-themed drinks and products only for a short period of time, and not all year round. There wouldn't be anything special about these products if they were available all year. They would not be considered holiday drinks at this point, just drinks.

Overall, Christmas has a time and place to be celebrated, and that time and place is most definitely not in November.

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

The very first day of November radio stations put up a holiday station with Christmas music all day long.

Neighborhoods and shops have already begun decorating for the upcoming holiday season.

There are people who believe it is too early to start celebrating this joyous holiday, but there are many reasons as to why we should.

Christmas is a holiday that brings people together and spreads joy throughout everyone. People enjoy this holiday and want to celebrate as soon as they can.

Just because it is not December does not mean decorations can't be brought out or Christmas music listened to.

By hearing music on the radio or seeing Christmas lights around it brings out the holiday spirit. The music played on the radio is played on a specific station made only for holiday music.

Anyone who wants to listen to it may or may not but just because others do not want to listen doesn't mean it is too early to play it. Christmas music is not only festive, but is relaxing for people to listen to.

When listening to these songs it brings over a sense of relaxation and happiness. If these songs were not categorized as "Christmas songs" then there would be no debate on the appropriate time to play them.

When it comes to Christmas movies there are millions to choose from. TV channels, such as Hallmark, have already started playing Christmas movies.

Because it is not the month of December, people criticize this and say the channel should not be playing Christmas movies this early.

Christmas movies can be categorized as any film associated with winter or some aspect of the holiday season. These movies are for pure enjoyment as are films in general.

By saying you shouldn't watch Christmas movies because it is not Christmas yet is like saying you should not watch horror movies because it is not Halloween.

Christmas movies also build up the excitement for the holiday to come which raises the spirit of people.

As stated before, malls have also begun decorating their stores for the holidays. Since multiple people visit a mall daily, these decorations are suppose to remind shoppers of the upcoming holiday.

People who are out shopping could have motivation to begin Christmas shopping, or just admire the decorations.

This is a much anticipated holiday that many people worldwide look forward too so seeing decorations a four-five weeks early is no issue. You can appreciate the decorations longer than if no one started putting them up until only about 2 weeks before.

Christmas is always associated with snow and cold temperature. As this is true in most cases, Mother Nature does not always work that way. The end of October and into November is when there is a change in the weather. This stimulates the excitement for winter and the holiday that follows; Christmas. People argue that since there may not be snow yet, it is not Christmas season. That should not make a difference because some years it snows as early as October and others as late as January. Everyone says that it is not Christmas without snow but in reality snow or not it is still Christmas season.

Christmas is one of the most popular holidays and is anticipated for all year by millions of people. To start playing Christmas music, putting up decorations or even watching holiday movies just a few weeks early is not a problem. Holiday celebrations, no longer the time, not only brightens people's spirits but also gets everyone excited for the upcoming festivities.

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECTUIVE EDITOR
TESSA VIRGILIO

COPY EDITOR
ETHAN ZWEIG

ONLINE EDITORS
Mallory McCauley
Adam Swiatkowski

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

PHOTOGRAPHER
Pawandeep Bola

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

ADVISER
Teresa Nowak

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl
Willow Pierce

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a montly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and materiel disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

designed by awbrei vachon

LIFE

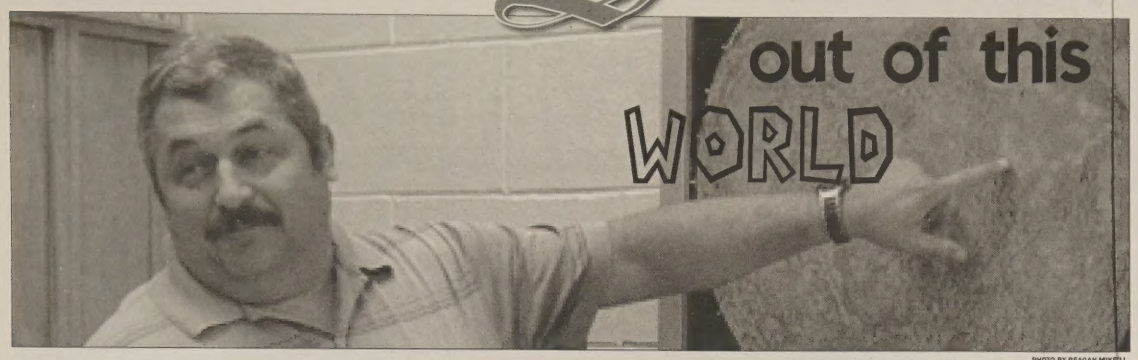


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKELL

Astronomy class debuts with 18 students as advanced Earth Space Science course in science department

BY EMMA LEININGER
Writer

The new astronomy class has sparked the interest of many students who might pursue a career in the study of the physical universe, and also many students who are simply intrigued by the vast outer space.

Robert Steverson, astronomy teacher, was inspired to create the astronomy class by his love of physics and astronomy which he can trace back even to college.

"The interesting thing about astronomy is that it's a changing science," Steverson said, "The things that 20 years ago were thought to be (true) are now accepted as facts. It's constantly growing and changing, so I think it's a good opportunity for students to see how science can progress."

Currently the class is only offered during fifth period and is composed of 18 students.

"It's just a good opportunity to take another science class that's going to get me extra knowledge before I go into college, and Steverson lays the class out like a college class," Ethan Yde (12) said.

As a fifth period class, Steverson is able to go in depth with his students, answer questions and give them time to work on important projects.

"The class is more focused around projects, research and small group assignments," Steverson said. "Really it's trying to understand the universe and the things that are occurring and cutting edge that are a little more difficult to go into in Earth Space It's laying a foundation, trying to get the students interested and engaging in the science, not just learning about it."

Steverson's students find his teaching styles entertaining and educational and hold him in high regard.

"Mr. Steverson is one of the smartest people that I've ever met," Lauren Rapsen (12) said, "He really knows what he's talking about, he's really interested in what he teaches, he really has this passion for teaching and learning and getting involved with the students. That's very admirable in a person."

Both in the winter and in the spring, students have the option to go on a field trip to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago.

"The Chicago trip is an opportunity to go to probably one of the premiere planetariums in the country," Steverson said.

The students will not only be able to see a night show in the planetarium, but also the museum which offers models which represents the relative sizes of planes, space suits and even possibly a capsule used in the space program. This will help show the students the topics they have discussed in class in a real life setting.

Earth Space is a prerequisite to the astronomy class, but where the majority of Earth Space focused on the physical Earth rather than the astronomical aspects, this new astronomy class goes more in depth and hands dealing with the celestial portion of Earth Space.

> **"The interesting thing about astronomy is that it's a changing science...It's constantly growing and changing."**
>
> **ROBERT STEVERSON**
> *Teacher*

"One of the things that helps with understanding astronomy is understanding the Earth," Steverson said, "It gives something to compare it to, because you've got to be able to have a frame of reference and that's what Earth Space does."

The class is applicable to all graduation programs and is considered an advanced science course. Students do research and write papers to familiarize themselves with work they may be doing in college.

Steverson recommends the class to anyone who has an interest in astronomy and the skies. Although the course is a first year class, it is gaining interest very quickly and appears to be off to a very strong start.

PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

The Allen County SPCA shelter takes in abandoned cats and dogs, prepares them for forever-homes

BY AWBREI VACHON
Section Editor

During the first week of November, people all over the country celebrate National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week, and the animal lovers of Fort Wayne were no exception. The Allen County Society for Prevention Against Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) takes care of the city's homeless cats and dogs and prepares them for the life they will live following their adoption. Although Shelter Appreciation Week takes place once a year, shelters work year round to ensure their four-legged friends are attended to with love while they wait for a family.

"I think that it's important that every community recognize the important role that they're local animal shelter plays in their community's overall health and wellbeing,"

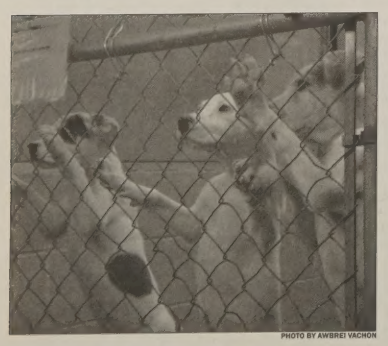


PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

The animals of the SPCA live in either the kennels or the cat colonies in the shelter. Three big yards in the back of the building provide play time, exercise and training for the dogs living in the shelter.

Jessica Henry, Allen County SPCA director, said. "Animal shelters keep stray animals from running on the streets, we vaccinate animals and adoptable pets and we're a source of information, comfort and services for the community at large."

In any typical week, the employees and volunteers perform tasks around the shelter to ensure the health, safety and happiness of every the animal there.

"At any given time, we have about 100 animals in the building, usually about 25 dogs, and the rest, cats, so there's significant amount of effort put into cleaning up after the animals, cleaning the animals themselves, feeding the animals (and) enriching the animals experience here," Henry said.

The SPCA is not a municipal animal organization, as opposed to Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control, which is run by the city of Fort Wayne. So to accomplish most of these tasks, the shelter relies on donations from others.

"The reason that donations are so important is because the better funded we are, the more lengths we're able to go to for animals in need," Henry said. "For example, we treat heartworm here when a dog tests positive for heartworm, and that can cost up to 1000 dollars for that one dog. So the more people donate to us, the more of those animals we can help. We can also have better enrichment programming for the animals here if they need new toys or if we want to put in new apparatus in the cat colonies."

In addition to caring for the pets, the shelter also tries to reach out to outsiders as well.

"(We) ran a free vaccine clinic where people could come here out through the garage (and) we had vets that volunteered their time that would vaccinate these animals," Dawn LaPorte, Allen County SPCA business manager, said. "They would be microchipped, they would get flea treatment, they would get some food, different things that we had going on, and a lot of these animals have never even been to a vet before,"

Another way the SPCA helps outsiders is through a program referred to as Compassion Fostering, which the shelter recently started participating in. Compassion Fostering is a way for the shelter to help individuals in unfortunate situations care for their pets.

Approximately half of all the animals coming into the shelter are transferred from the Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control, and pets from owner surrenders and other animal shelters make up the other half. Animal Care and Control has an open admission facility, which basically means it will take nearly any animal in, but unfortunately, the downside is typically once it reaches maximum capacity, animals must be euthanized, or put down, in order to make room for incoming animals. The SPCA, on the other hand, has a limited admission facility, meaning if there is not any room for another pet, the shelter will turn people away until it can accommodate more pets. In order to save as many animals as possible from being euthanized, the SPCA takes in pets from Animal Care and Control

When these pets come into the shelter, they all go through the same general process before they are incorporated into the SPCA family. This includes a bath, testing, vaccination, any necessary treatment, spay or neuter surgery and finally, they are put up for adoption.

"We always want people to look here first before they consider purchasing an animal because there are a lot of wonderful dogs of all breeds and all ages, same thing for cats, who are looking for their forever homes and waiting on people to come find them," Henry said. "When somebody adopts an animal instead of purchasing one from a breeder or a pet store, you save two lives: you save the life of the animal that you're taking home that day plus it makes space for us to go to animal control and bring in another animal."

One student in particular from the school, Kate Graney (12), has adopted a pet from the Allen County SPCA.

"My dog died the beginning of my junior year, and we were lonely, so we went to the SPCA to get a cat," Graney said. "There was like three rooms full of cats, and they let us play with the cats for a little while and decide which one we wanted."

Although the shelter invests a lot of time caring for the animals inside the building, the ultimate goal is to get the animals out of the shelter and into a new home. Volunteers such as Louise Yahne, former first grade teacher at Fairfield Elementary, puts together Go Home bags for the families who adopt a pet, which includes helpful information as well as treats and toys.

"My goal for every animal when it comes in here is that the experience is similar to they're going to a daycare, it's just a different family's going to pick them up than the one who dropped them off," Henry said. "I want it to be a positive experience for them, I want them to be in a clean environment, I want them to feel love, I want them to feel healthy, I want them to know joy and I want them to find their forever-homes with families who will commit to them for the rest of their lives."

 designed by melana rossi

A blast from the past: 90s kid childhood defined

List of prominent TV shows, movies and more from the late 90s to early 2000s

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

Before too long, generations will have no recollection of the things that defined our childhood as traditional "90's Kids." All of the many trademarks of the 90s and early 2000s will cease to have any relevance to these upcoming generations. This year in high school, students born in the year 2001 are finally roaming the hallways, and within the next couple years, there will no longer be a graduating class consisting of students born in the 1990s. Basically someday we're going to be those cool old-timers that people will say to us, "no way you were born in the 1900s?" We're going to feel like ancient artifacts from a completely different century--in a good way, of course.

As kids born in the 90s, typically the first thing that comes to our mind isn't fashion or historical events, but rather, when we think of the of those precious adolescent years, what sticks out to us the most is the popular TV shows and movies, emerging video consoles and corresponding games and awesome toys, among other things.

The following is a detailed list describing the most prominent highlights of our childhood, starting with TV shows and movies.

-**Franklin the Turtle**: Quite appropriately, we'll start out with some of the TV shows intended for younger audiences and work our way up. Franklin was a TV show about a (pretty funny looking) turtle with a little red handkerchief around his neck and a matching red hat, who embarked on adventures with his best friends (one of which was a bear literally named Bear), like riding scooters and overcoming his fear small, dark places (like the inside of his shell).

-**Little Bear**: Similarly, Little Bear, if you don't remember, was a cartoon about a young bear and all his furry friends, including a duck, a hen, an owl and a cat, as well as a girl named Emily (obviously not as fury).

-**Dragon Tales**: This one was a little more popular than the three aforementioned shows; a brother and sister travel to this cool dragon world that pretty much all of us were incredibly jealous about.

-**Scooby Doo: Zoinks!**: Venturing towards a slightly more mature audience, Scooby Doo and his gang were awesome. Enough said.

-**Courage the Cowardly Dog**: Keeping a steady dog theme, Courage the Cowardly Dog was weird; it was terrifying. For some reason, though, watching it gave you a sense of pride and, oddly enough, courage, because of how freaky the show was.

-**The Grim Adventure of Billy and Mandy**: The title doesn't like, this show was pretty grim. I mean, the Grim Reaper was literally one of the main characters. How much more grim does it get? It was a very odd show, if I might add.

-**Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends**: Characters like Bloo, Coco and Mac and Cheese really made this a memorable show.

-**Teen Titans**: Not to be mistaken with Teen Titans Go, also known as the newer and not improved version of the one from the early 2000s. Why do they do such terrible things to cartoons nowadays?

-**Danny Phantom**: This show was definitely one of the best shows we had as kids. He was just 14 when his parents built a very strange machine...his molecules got all rearranged...he had snowy white hair, and glowing green eyes...he had to stop all the ghosts that were coming through, you get the gist.

-**Spongebob Squarepants**: What is childhood without Spongebob and Patrick? Nonexistent, that's what. Spongebob was so good the producers had no choice but keep on airing it. Now that is what I call a true legend.

-**The Fairly Oddparents**: Dinkleberg! This show revolutionized our hopes and dreams, hands down. I don't think anyone of us didn't hope that we would somehow be blessed with fairy godparents.

-**The Amanda Show**: This may have been one of the weirdest shows out there. With that being said, court dismissed; bring in the dancing lobsters.

-**Drake and Josh**: Words cannot even begin to explain our universal love and admiration for Drake and Josh, so in lieu of a description, let's all just have a moment of silence to remember this one. Feel free to grab a tissue to wipe away any stray tears if you would like.

-**The Suite Life of Zack and Cody**: There is no doubt these two trouble makers kick-started millions of kids' dreams nation-wide of living in a big hotel and luggage-bag-cart-surfing down the long hallways, terrorizing guests in the process. I don't think there is a single person in the world who didn't like that show.

-**The Harry Potter movies:** I know not everyone was a Harry Potter fan, but all throughout our childhood, there was always a new Harry Potter movie coming out. Going to see the new Harry Potter was one of the most thrilling movie-going experiences out there. During that last movie, watching Harry, Ron and Hermione hurl their kids off into the brick walls, that was the end of our childhood. Never again would we await the release of the next Harry Potter movie.

Now venturing away towards animation and motion picture, here are some miscellaneous objects which all of us 90s kids can relate to.

-**Constantly having to sharpen your pencil to the point where it was basically a weapon**: We didn't have mechanical pencils for quite a while in school, thus, we had the excuse of needing to sharpen our pencil the second it became a little dull. Number two's were our number one (by default).

-**Overhead Projectors**: These bad boys dominated class time lessons. Some teachers had the ones where they simply just placed the transparency on top of the the overhead, but others had the ones where the transparency was like four feet long and the teacher would just crank the little handle and the transparency would scroll up or down.

-**Tamagotchi pets**: I personally cannot vouch for the splendors of owning a Tamagotchi pet, but I do know they were pretty popular and I was always jealous I didn't have one.

-**GameCube**: The GameCube wasn't the only game console during its time, but it was unique in the fact that XBox and PlayStation both lived to see the following generations. The GameCube sadly didn't prosper the way its competitors did, but it sure provided us with technological fun.

-**Easy Bake Oven**: They probably have way better versions of the Easy Bake Oven today, but that doesn't change how exciting it was to mix the ingredients together, pour the batter into the hockey-puck-shaped tray and place it in the little slot underneath the light bulb for what felt like a whole day until it was finally ready.

-**Light Bright**: This box had holes all on the top of it and it came with a bunch of tiny, colorful little pegs. Typically there were different patterns you follow to create the different masterpieces of your dreams.

-**Cursive**: Cursive is hard, and the majority of teenagers today most likely still struggle with it, but I think there is a great deal of satisfaction that comes with being able to write a complete sentence in cursive, knowing full well that even though it doesn't look as good as grandma's, it's still pretty fancy.

So, as we all run home and try to obtain as many copies of cherished TV shows and movies that will eventually be lost to the world, so we can both binge watch them in our free time as well as force our kids to sit down and watch them someday instead of whatever popular junk that will surface during their time (because let's face it, most kid shows today already severely lack quality, and it's probably safe to say television is headed in a downward spiral, and it's everyone else down with it).

Moral of the story, never grow up. Always express that inner 90s kid of yours.

OR

Before too long, generations will have no recollection of the things that defined our childhood as traditional "90s Kids." All of the many trademarks of the 90s and early 2000s will cease to have any relevance to these upcoming generations. This year in high school, students born in the year 2001 are finally roaming the hallways, and within the next couple years, there will no longer be a graduating class consisting of students born in the 1990s. Basically someday we're going to be those cool old-timers that people will say to us, "no way you were born in the 1900s?" We're going to feel like ancient artifacts from a completely different century--in a good way, of course.

As kids born in the 90s, typically the first thing that comes to our mind isn't fashion or historical events, but rather, when we think of the of those precious adolescent years, what sticks out to us the most is the popular TV shows and cartoons of the time.

The following is an extensive list of the most prominent TV shows of our childhood.

Scooby-Doo, Where are You!	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Kim Possible	Avatar	Little Bear
The Flintstones	The Road Runner	Ed, Edd n Eddy	Pokémon	Winnie the Pooh
The Jetsons	Pink Panther	Ben 10	Recess	Dragon Tales
Johnny Bravo	The Yogi Bear Show	The Powerpuff Girls	Gargoyles	Sagwa
Samurai Jack	Camp Lazlo	Pinky and the Brain	Rolie Polie Olie	Lilo & Stitch
Dexter's Laboratory	The Smurfs	Catdog	PB&J Otter	Chalkzone
Arthur	Foster's Home for Imaginary	Teen Titans	The Proud Family	The Little Mermaid
Hey Arnold	Friends	Courage the Cowardly Dog	Rugrats	Aladdin
Johnny Quest	Kid Next Door	Life as a Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	Lloyd in Space
Cow and Chicken	Popeye the Sailor	The Snorks	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Bear in the Big Blue House
My Gym Partner's a Monkey	The Jetsons	Krypto the Superdog	Rocket Power	Barney
I am Weasel	Wacky Races	Tom and Jerry	Franklin	The Emperor's New Groove

Wright's drawing to be featured on cover of Glo Magazine

Senior's colored pencil rendering will be on cover of May issue of local magazine

Since starting her first year at Homestead this year as a senior, Emily Wright has toned her artistic skills with the hope of pursuing an art-related career that incorporates this talent. While sitting in her government glass earlier this month, she was informed that her drawing would be on the cover of the May issue of Glo magazine.

Spartana: How long have you been drawing?

Wright: I have been drawing ever since I can remember. It's something I've always done, even when I was little, even when I wasn't that good at it

Spartana: What would your past self from when you first started drawing think of you having one of your pieces appear on the cover of a magazine?

Wright: I probably would have never thought I would be good enough to have my drawing on the cover of anything. Honestly, I have improved so much within the years.

Spartana: How did the magazine find your art?

Wright: A while back... about two years ago, I drew a picture pretty similar to the one that's going to be on the cover, and my mom was like, "You really need to enter in some of your stuff for Glo Magazine... it's a free, local magazine and they do similar stuff."

I just kind of blew it off and never really got to it, but after I drew (the improved piece), I was like, "You know what, I think I'll try it." And I talked to my art teacher (Sarah Jones, art teacher) and she actually knows the person in charge (of the submissions), so my art teacher emailed her and she emailed us back about a week later and (30 minutes afterwards) she emailed us again and said she was so excited about (the drawing) that she told the (magazine) board about it and they discussed it and it's going to be on the cover of the May issue.

My art teacher actually called me while I was in Government to tell me (about the second email). I thought I was in trouble or something because my teacher was like, "You have a phone call." But it was so exciting.

Spartana: Can you share a bit about your experience of creating the drawing?

Wright: (In art class), we were actually doing aesthetic poetry, which is where you find a poem or a quote and you kind of draw a picture for it. And mine was (the poem) "There's No Cosmetic For Happiness" and so I thought that (the drawing I created) would represent it.

Spartana: How long did it take to finish your drawing?

Wright: It probably took about 20 hours, but it was pread out over a week.

Spartana: What are some other pieces you've created?

Wright: A lot of my artwork I actually give away... Once I get done drawing it, the purpose for it is kind of lost; I feel like someone else would have a better use for it.

But (for one of my pieces) I needed to draw a self portrait for my portfolio so one of my drawings is a series of me sneezing because as I was taking the reference pictures of my face, I sneezed, so I used those three pictures of me sneezing for my self portrait.

Spartana: Are you planning to incorporate art in your future career?

Wright: Yes; if you had asked me a year ago I would have said no, but after seeing, and I'm not trying to sound cocky, but after seeing that I am good enough, I am definitely going to take advantage of that opportunity.

I'm applying for (art) scholarships at a couple colleges. I think it would be cool to be an illustrator or incorporate it with business somehow, like in advertising.

Spartana: What advice would you give to younger artists?

Wright: I would just draw as many things as possible, all the time.

Spartana: What are your artistic goals?

Drawing: "There's No Cosmetic for Happiness."
PHOTO TAKEN BY: REAGAN MIKESELL

Wright: I want to find a purpose for my art. I've actually started a plan... I thought about what a difference I could make with art and I think it would be cool to draw a bunch of fanart and sell it and donate the money to McKenzie's Hope (which is an organization) for abused children because I had a past of abuse and... I went to McKenzie's Hope.

I think it would be good to try to make a difference and use my talent for the good.

--Michal Spanjer

designed by awbrei vachon

LIFE

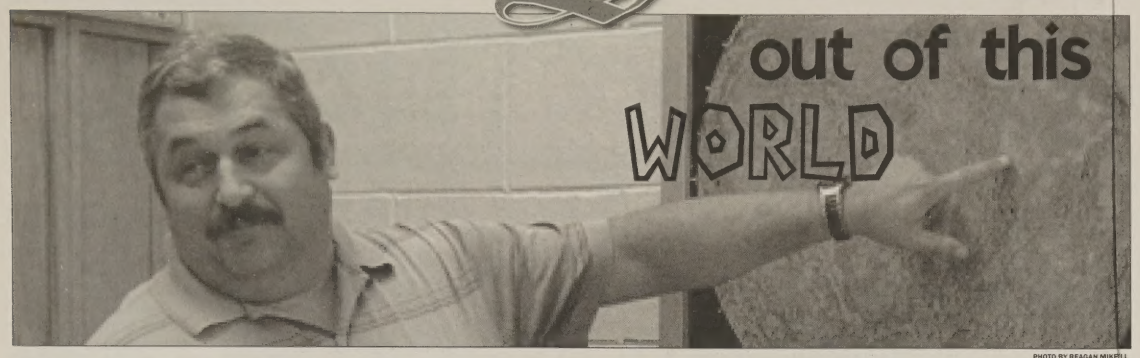


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKELL

Astronomy class debuts with 18 students as advanced Earth Space Science course in science department

BY EMMA LEININGER
Writer

The new astronomy class has sparked the interest of many students who might pursue a career in the study of the physical universe, and also many students who are simply intrigued by the vast outer space.

Robert Steverson, astronomy teacher, was inspired to create the astronomy class by his love of physics and astronomy which he can trace back even to college.

"The interesting thing about astronomy is that it's a changing science," Steverson said, "The things that 20 years ago were thought to be (true) are now accepted as facts. It's constantly growing and changing, so I think it's a good opportunity for students to see how science can progress."

Currently the class is only offered during fifth period and is composed of 18 students.

"It's just a good opportunity to take another science class that's going to get me extra knowledge before I go into college, and Steverson lays the class out like a college class," Ethan Yde (12) said.

As a fifth period class, Steverson is able to go in depth with his students, answer questions and give them time to work on important projects.

"The class is more focused around projects, research and small group assignments," Steverson said. "Really it's trying to understand the universe and the things that are occurring and cutting edge that are a little more difficult to go into in Earth Space It's laying a foundation, trying to get the students interested and engaging in the science, not just learning about it."

Steverson's students find his teaching styles entertaining and educational and hold him in high regard.

"Mr. Steverson is one of the smartest people that I've ever met," Lauren Rapsen (12) said, "He really knows what he's talking about, he's really interested in what he teaches, he really has this passion for teaching and learning and getting involved with the students. That's very admirable in a person."

Both in the winter and in the spring, students have the option to go on a field trip to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago.

"The Chicago trip is an opportunity to go to probably one of the premiere planetariums in the country," Steverson said.

The students will not only be able to see a night show in the planetarium, but also the museum which offers models which represents the relative sizes of planes, space suits and even possibly a capsule used in the space program. This will help show the students the topics they have discussed in class in a real life setting.

Earth Space is a prerequisite to the astronomy class, but where the majority of Earth Space focused on the physical Earth rather than the astronomical aspects, this new astronomy class goes more in depth and hands dealing with the celestial portion of Earth Space.

> "The interesting thing about astronomy is that it's a changing science...it's constantly growing and changing."
>
> **ROBERT STEVERSON**
> *Teacher*

"One of the things that helps with understanding astronomy is understanding the Earth." Steverson said, "It gives something to compare it to, because you've got to be able to have a frame of reference and that's what Earth Space does."

The class is applicable to all graduation programs and is considered an advanced science course. Students do research and write papers to familiarize themselves with work they may be doing in college.

Steverson recommends the class to anyone who has an interest in astronomy and the skies. Although the course is a first year class, it is gaining interest very quickly and appears to be off to a very strong start.

PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

The Allen County SPCA shelter takes in abandoned cats and dogs, prepares them for forever-homes

BY AWBREI VACHON
Section Editor

During the first week of November, people all over the country celebrate National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week, and the animal lovers of Fort Wayne were no exception. The Allen County Society for Prevention Against Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) takes care of the city's homeless cats and dogs and prepares them for the life they will live following their adoption. Although Shelter Appreciation Week takes place once a year, shelters work year round to ensure their four-legged friends are attended to with love while they wait for a family.

"I think that it's important that every community recognize the important role that they're local animal shelter plays in their community's overall health and wellbeing,"

PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

The animals of the SPCA live in either the kennels or the cat colonies in the shelter. Three big yards in the back of the building provide play time, exercise and training for the dogs living in the shelter.

Jessica Henry, Allen County SPCA director, said. "Animal shelters keep stray animals from running on the streets, we vaccinate animals and adoptable pets and we're a source of information, comfort and services for the community at large."

In any typical week, the employees and volunteers perform tasks around the shelter to ensure the health, safety and happiness of every the animal there.

"At any given time, we have about 100 animals in the building, usually about 25 dogs, and the rest, cats, so there's significant amount of effort put into cleaning up after the animals, cleaning the animals themselves, feeding the animals (and) enriching the animals experience here," Henry said.

The SPCA is not a municipal animal organization, as opposed to Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control, which is run by the city of Fort Wayne. So to accomplish most of these tasks, the shelter relies on donations from others.

"The reason that donations are so important is because the better funded we are, the more lengths we're able to go to for animals in need," Henry said. "For example, we treat heartworm here when a dog tests positive for heartworm, and that can cost up to 1000 dollars for that one dog. So the more people donate to us, the more of those animals we can help. We can also have better enrichment programming for the animals here if they need new toys or if we want to put in new apparatus in the cat colonies."

In addition to caring for the pets, the shelter also tries to reach out to outsiders as well.

"(We) ran a free vaccine clinic where people could come here out through the garage (and) we had vets that volunteered their time that would vaccinate these animals," Dawn LaPorte, Allen County SPCA business manager, said. "They would be microchipped, they would get flea treatment, they would get some food, different things that we had going on, and a lot of these animals have never even been to a vet before,"

Another way the SPCA helps outsiders is through a program referred to as Compassion Fostering, which the shelter recently started participating in. Compassion Fostering is a way for the shelter to help individuals in unfortunate situations care for their pets.

Approximately half of all the animals coming into the shelter are transferred from the Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control, and pets from owner surrenders and other animal shelters make up the other half. Animal Care and Control has an open admission facility, which basically means it will take nearly any animal in, but unfortunately, the downside is typically once it reaches maximum capacity, animals must be euthanized, or put down, in order to make room for incoming animals. The SPCA, on the other hand, has a limited admission facility, meaning if there is not any room for another pet, the shelter will turn people away until it can accommodate more pets. In order to save as many animals as possible from being euthanized, the SPCA takes in pets from Animal Care and Control

When these pets come into the shelter, they all go through the same general process before they are incorporated into the SPCA family. This includes a bath, testing, vaccination, any necessary treatment, spay or neuter surgery and finally, they are put up for adoption.

"We always want people to look here first before they consider purchasing an animal because there are a lot of wonderful dogs of all breeds and all ages, same thing for cats, who are looking for their forever homes and waiting on people to come find them," Henry said. "When somebody adopts an animal instead of purchasing one from a breeder or a pet store, you save two lives: you save the life of the animal that you're taking home that day plus it makes space for us to go to animal control and bring in another animal."

One student in particular from the school, Kate Graney (12), has adopted a pet from the Allen County SPCA.

"My dog died the beginning of my junior year, and we were lonely, so we went to the SPCA to get a cat," Graney said. "There was like three rooms full of cats, and they let us play with the cats for a little while and decide which one we wanted."

Although the shelter invests a lot of time caring for the animals inside the building, the ultimate goal is to get the animals out of the shelter and into a new home. Volunteers such as Louise Yahne, former first grade teacher at Fairfield Elementary, puts together Go Home bags for the families who adopt a pet, which includes helpful information as well as treats and toys.

"My goal for every animal when it comes in here is that the experience is similar to they're going to a daycare, it's just a different family's going to pick them up than the one who dropped them off," Henry said. "I want it to be a positive experience for them, I want them to be in a clean environment, I want them to feel love, I want them to feel healthy, I want them to know joy and I want them to find their forever-homes with families who will commit to them for the rest of their lives."

A blast from the past: 90s kid childhood defined

List of prominent TV shows, movies and more from the late 90s to early 2000s

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

Before too long, generations will have no recollection of the things that defined our childhood as traditional "90's Kids." All of the many trademarks of the 90s and early 2000s will cease to have any relevance to these upcoming generations. This year in high school, students born in the year 2001 are finally roaming the hallways, and within the next couple years, there will no longer be a graduating class consisting of students born in the 1990s. Basically someday we're going to be those cool old-timers that people will say to us, "no way you were born in the 1900s?" We're going to feel like ancient artifacts from a completely different century--in a good way, of course.

As kids born in the 90s, typically the first thing that comes to our mind isn't fashion or historical events, but rather, when we think of the of those precious adolescent years, what sticks out to us the most is the popular TV shows and movies, emerging video consoles and corresponding games and awesome toys, among other things.

The following is a detailed list describing the most prominent highlights of our childhood, starting with TV shows and movies.

-**Franklin the Turtle**: Quite appropriately, we'll start out with some of the TV shows intended for younger audiences and work our way up. Franklin was a TV show about a (pretty funny looking) turtle with a little red handkerchief around his neck and a matching red hat, who embarked on adventures with his best friends (one of which was a bear literally named Bear), like riding scooters and overcoming his fear small, dark places (like the inside of his shell).

-**Little Bear**: Similarly, Little Bear, if you don't remember, was a cartoon about a young bear and all his furry friends, including a duck, a hen, an owl and a cat, as well as a girl named Emily (obviously not as fury).

-**Dragon Tales**: This one was a little more popular than the three aforementioned shows; a brother and sister travel to this cool dragon world that pretty much all of us were incredibly jealous about.

-**Scooby Doo: Zoinks!**: Venturing towards a slightly more mature audience, Scooby Doo and his gang were awesome. Enough said.

-**Courage the Cowardly Dog**: Keeping a steady dog theme, Courage the Cowardly Dog was weird; it was terrifying. For some reason, though, watching it gave you a sense of pride and, oddly enough, courage, because of how freaky the show was.

-**The Grim Adventure of Billy and Mandy**: The title doesn't like, this show was pretty grim. I mean, the Grim Reaper was literally one of the main characters. How much more grim does it get? It was a very odd show, if I might add.

-**Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends**: Characters like Bloo, Coco and Mac and Cheese really made this a memorable show.

-**Teen Titans**: Not to be mistaken with Teen Titans Go, also known as the newer and not improved version of the one from the early 2000s. Why do they do such terrible things to cartoons nowadays?

-**Danny Phantom**: This show was definitely one of the best shows we had as kids. He was just 14 when his parents built a very strange machine...his molecules got all rearranged...he had snowy white hair, and glowing green eyes...he had to stop all the ghosts that were coming through, you get the gist.

-**Spongebob Squarepants**: What is childhood without Spongebob and Patrick? Nonexistent, that's what. Spongebob was so good the producers had no choice but keep on airing it. Now that is what I call a true legend.

-**The Fairly Oddparents**: Dinkleberg! This show revolutionized our hopes and dreams, hands down. I don't think anyone of us didn't hope that we would somehow be blessed with fairy godparents.

-**The Amanda Show**: This may have been one of the weirdest shows out there. With that being said, court dismissed; bring in the dancing lobsters.

-**Drake and Josh**: Words cannot even begin to explain our universal love and admiration for Drake and Josh, so in lieu of a description, let's all just have a moment of silence to remember this one. Feel free to grab a tissue to wipe away any stray tears if you would like.

-**The Suite Life of Zack and Cody**: There is no doubt these two trouble makers kick-started millions of kids' dreams nation-wide of living in a big hotel and luggage-bag-cart-surfing down the long hallways, terrorizing guests in the process. I don't think there is a single person in the world who didn't like that show.

-**The Harry Potter movies:** I know not everyone was a Harry Potter fan, but all throughout our childhood, there was always a new Harry Potter movie coming out. Going to see the new Harry Potter was one of the most thrilling movie-going experiences out there. During that last movie, watching Harry, Ron and Hermione hurl their kids off into the brick walls, that was the end of our childhood. Never again would we await the release of the next Harry Potter movie.

Now venturing away towards animation and motion picture, here are some miscellaneous objects which all of us 90s kids can relate to.

-**Constantly having to sharpen your pencil to the point where it was basically a weapon**: We didn't have mechanical pencils for quite a while in school, thus, we had the excuse of needing to sharpen our pencil the second it became a little dull. Number two's were our number one (by default).

-**Overhead Projectors**: These bad boys dominated class time lessons. Some teachers had the ones where they simply just placed the transparency on top of the the overhead, but others had the ones where the transparency was like four feet long and the teacher would just crank the little handle and the transparency would scroll up or down.

-**Tamagotchi pets**: I personally cannot vouch for the splendors of owning a Tamagotchi pet, but I do know they were pretty popular and I was always jealous I didn't have one.

-**GameCube**: The GameCube wasn't the only game console during its time, but it was unique in the fact that XBox and PlayStation both lived to see the following generations. The GameCube sadly didn't prosper the way its competitors did, but it sure provided us with technological fun.

-**Easy Bake Oven**: They probably have way better versions of the Easy Bake Oven today, but that doesn't change how exciting it was to mix the ingredients together, pour the batter into the hockey-puck-shaped tray and place it in the little slot underneath the light bulb for what felt like a whole day until it was finally ready.

-**Light Bright**: This box had holes all on the top of it and it came with a bunch of tiny, colorful little pegs. Typically there were different patterns you follow to create the different masterpieces of your dreams.

-**Cursive**: Cursive is hard, and the majority of teenagers today most likely still struggle with it, but I think there is a great deal of satisfaction that comes with being able to write a complete sentence in cursive, knowing full well that even though it doesn't look as good as grandma's, it's still pretty fancy.

So, as we all run home and try to obtain as many copies of cherished TV shows and movies that will eventually be lost to the world, so we can both binge watch them in our free time as well as force our kids to sit down and watch them someday instead of whatever popular junk that will surface during their time (because let's face it, most kid shows today already severely lack quality, and it's probably safe to say television is headed in a downward spiral, and it's everyone else down with it).

Moral of the story, never grow up. Always express that inner 90s kid of yours.

OR

Before too long, generations will have no recollection of the things that defined our childhood as traditional "90s Kids." All of the many trademarks of the 90s and early 2000s will cease to have any relevance to these upcoming generations. This year in high school, students born in the year 2001 are finally roaming the hallways, and within the next couple years, there will no longer be a graduating class consisting of students born in the 1990s. Basically someday we're going to be those cool old-timers that people will say to us, "no way you were born in the 1900s?" We're going to feel like ancient artifacts from a completely different century--in a good way, of course.

As kids born in the 90s, typically the first thing that comes to our mind isn't fashion or historical events, but rather, when we think of the of those precious adolescent years, what sticks out to us the most is the popular TV shows and cartoons of the time.

The following is an extensive list of the most prominent TV shows of our childhood.

Scooby-Doo, Where are You!	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Kim Possible	Avatar	Little Bear
The Flintstones	The Road Runner	Ed, Edd n Eddy	Pokémon	Winnie the Pooh
The Jetsons	Pink Panther	Ben 10	Recess	Dragon Tales
Johnny Bravo	The Yogi Bear Show	The Powerpuff Girls	Gargoyles	Sagwa
Samurai Jack	Camp Lazlo	Pinky and the Brain	Rolie Polie Olie	Lilo & Stitch
Dexter's Laboratory	The Smurfs	Catdog	PB&J Otter	Chalkzone
Arthur	Foster's Home for Imaginary	Teen Titans	The Proud Family	The Little Mermaid
Hey Arnold	Friends	Courage the Cowardly Dog	Rugrats	Aladdin
Johnny Quest	Kid Next Door	Life as a Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	Lloyd in Space
Cow and Chicken	Popeye the Sailor	The Snorks	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Bear in the Big Blue House
My Gym Partner's a Monkey	The Jetsons	Krypto the Superdog	Rocket Power	Barney
I am Weasel	Wacky Races	Tom and Jerry	Franklin	The Emperor's New Groove

Wright's drawing to be featured on cover of Glo Magazine

Senior's colored pencil rendering will be on cover of May issue of local magazine

Since starting her first year at Homestead this year as a senior, Emily Wright has toned her artistic skills with the hope of pursuing an art-related career that incorporates this talent. While sitting in her government glass earlier this month, she was informed that her drawing would be on the cover of the May issue of Glo magazine.

Spartana: How long have you been drawing?

Wright: I have been drawing ever since I can remember. It's something I've always done, even when I was little, even when I wasn't that good at it

Spartana: What would your past self from when you first started drawing think of you having one of your pieces appear on the cover of a magazine?

Wright: I probably would have never thought I would be good enough to have my drawing on the cover of anything. Honestly, I have improved so much within the years.

Spartana: How did the magazine find your art?

Wright: A while back... about two years ago, I drew a picture pretty similar to the one that's going to be on the cover, and my mom was like, "You really need to enter in some of your stuff for Glo Magazine... it's a free, local magazine and they do similar stuff."

I just kind of blew it off and never really got to it, but after I drew (the improved piece), I was like, "You know what, I think I'll try it." And I talked to my art teacher (Sarah Jones, art teacher) and she actually knows the person in charge (of the submissions), so my art teacher emailed her and she emailed us back about a week later and (30 minutes afterwards) she emailed us again and said she was so excited about (the drawing) that she told the (magazine) board about it and they discussed it and it's going to be on the cover of the May issue.

My art teacher actually called me while I was in Government to tell me (about the second email). I thought I was in trouble or something because my teacher was like, "You have a phone call." But it was so exciting.

Spartana: Can you share a bit about your experience of creating the drawing?

Wright: (In art class), we were actually doing aesthetic poetry, which is where you find a poem or a quote and you kind of draw a picture for it. And mine was (the poem) "There's No Cosmetic For Happiness" and so I thought that (the drawing I created) would represent it.

Spartana: How long did it take to finish your drawing?

Wright: It probably took about 20 hours, but it was pread out over a week.

Spartana: What are some other pieces you've created?

Wright: A lot of my artwork I actually give away... Once I get done drawing it, the purpose for it is kind of lost; I feel like someone else would have a better use for it.

But (for one of my pieces) I needed to draw a self portrait for my portfolio so one of my drawings is a series of me sneezing because as I was taking the reference pictures of my face, I sneezed, so I used those three pictures of me sneezing for my self portrait.

Spartana: Are you planning to incorporate art in your future career?

Wright: Yes; if you had asked me a year ago I would have said no, but after seeing, and I'm not trying to sound cocky, but after seeing that I am good enough, I am definitely going to take advantage of that opportunity.

I'm applying for (art) scholarships at a couple colleges. I think it would be cool to be an illustrator or incorporate it with business somehow, like in advertising.

Spartana: What advice would you give to younger artists?

Wright: I would just draw as many things as possible, all the time.

Spartana: What are your artistic goals?

Drawing: "There's No Cosmetic for Happiness."
PHOTO TAKEN BY: REAGAN MIKESELL

Wright: I want to find a purpose for my art. I've actually started a plan... I thought about what a difference I could make with art and I think it would be cool to draw a bunch of fanart and sell it and donate the money to McKenzie's Hope (which is an organization) for abused children because I had a past of abuse and... I went to McKenzie's Hope.

I think it would be good to try to make a difference and use my talent for the good.

--Michal Spanjer

designed by emma leininger

SPORTS

Football ends with defeat from Greyhounds

After overcoming Carroll in sectionals season ends with a fall against Carmel

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Writer

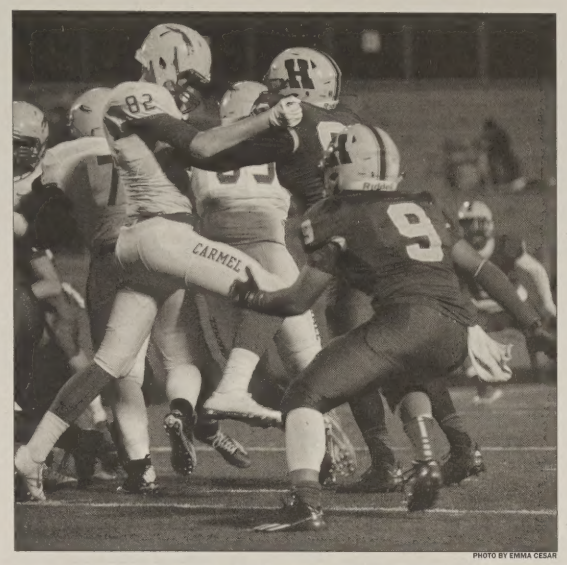


PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

Spartans face Carmel Greyhounds after sectional win against Carroll Chargers.

For a school that has not won a sectional football game in years, this season drew attention from a lot of Spartans.

This season's football team saw a better record and performance than in years past. The season, sadly, drew to a close with the team's defeat against Carmel.

"Since the beginning of the season, the team changed their offensive game a lot, and made a lot of progress on their passing game" Matt Dunlap (11), statistics recorder, said regarding the team's progress this season.

From the beginning of the team's season, one of their biggest struggles was their second-half playing.

The team never failed to start the game going full steam ahead and prepared to go all the way. Then, however, the team would have difficulty recovering in the second half, and would sometimes fall just short of a victory.

Players, though, are optimistic that this is something that they will be able to work on and tackle next season.

"Our second-half game is something the team and myself are really hoping to work on next year, and hopefully that will improve our record just that extra bit," Carson Cox (11) said of the team's goals for next season.

Along with the team trying to improve their game, the team will have to compensate for their outgoing seniors, and change their game plan to adjust for these missing players.

"Especially with Ben Skowronek (12), wide receiver, leaving, I can see the team going to a lot more of a running game for next season, as opposed to the extensive passing that they stuck with this season," Dunlap said of his expectations for next season.

> **"The victory over the Chargers was a giant moral victory, and even though we couldn't top Carmel, I think that this will really set the tone and a goal for next year,"**
>
> **CARSON COX (11)**
> *Free Safety and Outside Line Backer*

Despite the leaving seniors, hope is not lost. There are good prospects in the incoming junior class.

"Some of the players who are coming in could definitely have a good effect on the team," Dunlap said. "Some of the players like Jiya Wright (10) and Tahj Curry (12) could definitely influence the team for the better and are really promising for their next season. With Drew Keszei (11) returning and some of the other veterans, we should be pretty good on leadership. But I really do see the team doing a lot more running, because we're losing pretty much our entire receiving core, which could be a problem."

Hopefully all of the talent coming in balance out all of the graduating seniors, and the team doesn't take too big of a hit from the change in lineup.

The players remain optimistic that they will be able to start a tradition of winning sectionals, especially considering that the victory was over the rival school Carroll, following the regular season loss to the Chargers.

"The victory over the Chargers was a giant moral victory, and even though we couldn't top Carmel, I think that this will really set the tone and a goal for next year," Cox said.

Brayden Law wins second place at cross country state finals

Spartana: How long have you been participating in cross country?
Law: Cross country started in sixth grade.
Spartana: What drove you to start running? Why are you interested in it?
Law: I started doing track in third grade, as a sprinter, and in fifth grade I did the mile in track and that was kind of like a long distance event, and then I just really liked it so I started doing cross country and I guess the bug bit me ever since.
Spartana: How do you prepare for all of your meets?
Law: It usually takes like a hard week of training and everything. A lot of speed workouts and a lot of tempo days and stuff but I mean it just some good training all week and then when the meet comes you know you're ready for it.
Spartana: How do you feel the team, overall, did this year?
Law: The team did alright I mean we didn't- I feel like we could've improved a lot more this year; I mean we definitely had a good season. Some guys had some great times and everything but uh I mean definitely could've stepped it up, I mean it's the team you know we can always do better next year.
Spartana: What advice would you give to a beginner runner?
Law: Honestly anybody who is a beginner runner, it's a kind of a struggle at first to figure out what's kind of going on. Once you get used to it I mean you'll know and stuff, things will kind of fall into place. Just don't give up at first because it is kind of difficult.
Spartana: How do you keep yourself going while you're running?
Law: I guess mainly the biggest thing like when I'm running is what the prize at the end is. I mean like if it's training you know it's, I'm gearing up for the next meet and when it's racing it's just the best of my ability is kind of what I'm thinking about while I'm running.
Spartana: Who supports you throughout all of this?
Law: There are a lot of people who support me and I really appreciate anybody who does. It's usually the guys on the cross country team. My coaches definitely support me. I have a coach in Ludington, Mich. who I keep in contact with throughout; I meet up with him during the summer, so there is like a lot of people who support me, especially the guys on the team. You know I have a girlfriend, Hailey Johnson, she goes to Carroll, but she always supporting me and I just really appreciate anybody who does come out and support me because going out and running is hard to do and when you have people there supporting you it's like, easier.
Spartana: Do you plan on continuing running? If you do, how will you improve for next year?
Law: Yeah, I plan on running in college, I still haven't decided where I am going but improving for next year, it is going to be a whole different ball game, I think longer distances and stuff but I mean just mainly the decision I guess you could say right now is the main part.
Spartana: What colleges are you looking at right now?
Law: I'm kind of looking at Michigan, I'm looking at IU and I'm looking at Grand Valley. Those are like the main three. I don't know, I plan on making my decision in like January or February.

-- Alexis Jordan

PHOTO BY LOGAN MULLINS

Law leads the pack at the New Haven Classic

Hockey season under way with senior captain's leadership

Team challenged with new coaching staff members and smaller roster

BY WILLOW PIERCE
Writer

"My favorite part about hockey is how I can step out on the ice and suddenly all my other problems and stress just disappear," Peri Darmofal (10) said.

Stress may be just what the players are experiencing this year. A new coach, a smaller roster, recent injuries and two female members are just some of the new twists to the team.

The team this year is smaller. While they usually have up to 20 players, this year there are only 14.

"I think for what we were given we are doing pretty good," Darmofal said.

Included in the14 players on the team are two girls, Emily Morthost (11) and Darmofal, whom has been playing hockey for nine years.

"There are more boys in the sport here because it is a boys' sport." Darmofal said. "But in other areas like Michigan, it is very common for girls to play hockey."

> **"We are a young team and that in itself is a challenge."**
>
> **JIMMY RAPOZA (12)**
> *Hockey Team Captain*

Darmofal recently broke her collarbone and was sidelined for seven weeks.

Since hockey is a full contact sport, many injuries can happen during a game.

"I've seen broken bones and concussions," Darmofal said. "Recently, a player on Carroll's team had a bone in his leg shatter."

"My sophomore year, we saw a kid carted off," Jimmy Rapoza (12) said. "Our defensemen open-eyed just destroyed him. That's the worst I've seen."

Rapoza recently became the captain of the team and wants the team to do well this year.

"It's different this year, it's a rebuilding year." Rapoza said. "We are a young team and that in itself is a challenge."

Another change for the team is a new coach. Last year's coach is now working with Northrop's hockey team, who also happens to be one of the Spartans' biggest rivals.

"We always have a little bit more venom when we play them," Rapoza said. "But they're fun games."

With the season getting on its way, it will be interesting to watch how far the team goes with a coach who has worked with them before, Kobi Peters.

"The way [the team] performs, the way they do in the circumstances that we are playing a team that isn't even in the same league.. They stay with it till the end," Rapoza said.

For over 20 years, the Spartans hockey team has been a part of the Fort Wayne High School Hockey Association (FWHSHA) along with the Bishop Dwenger Saints, Carroll Chargers, Leo Lions, Summit City Panthers, and the Fort Wayne Bruins.

Also in the league are two midget teams (somewhat like an allstar/travel team) who compete in various tournaments in and out of state and consist of players from the high school teams.

Games take place on Wednesday nights, but check the Fort Wayne High School Hockey Association (FWHSHA) website to learn exact dates and times that the team plays.

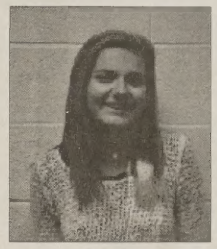
Necessary aspects of a strong team beyond skill in the specific sport

While a great sports team obviously has strong skill levels in the sport they are playing, there is major aspects of their team that make them stronger outside of their ability to hit, run or kick.

The importance of a close bond between teammates is a large part of what makes a strong team strong. A player who is close with their teammates is able to communicate with their team better, and the team can communicate back to them as well. Players are not afraid to give constructive criticism to a person on their team, and they won't hold back on words of encouragement either. If players are comfortable with the people around them, they are less afraid of making mistakes and are more confident on the court, field or track. It is also important that the team is close outside of the field, court or track. Close friendships result in close teammates.

In almost any sport, communication is an extremely important aspect. For an example, if a volleyball team was silent, they would never win any games. There is three contacts, and each one consists of multiple players calling the ball in one way or another.

KAYLEE'S COURT



BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

The passer, the player who has the first contact, has to yell out that they are getting the ball, most of the time calling out either 'mine,' or 'got it.' Once their ball is in the air, the setter, who has second contact, has to not only listen for their hitters who are calling for the set, but also yell out where they are placing the ball. Finally the hitters have to call their set, and exactly how they want it to be set. Once the ball goes over, everyone has to try their best to call out where they think the ball will be hit on the court, so the passers can move accordingly.

Aside from communication, support is a huge part of team success. Whether it is friends and family who come to a game, or there is a student section that shows up to every game, support always motivates a team to play better. Student sections are a big part of most schools, especially Homestead. Our football games and basketball games have always been the most popular events our student sections to attend and they are always loud, rowdy and excited. Our student section leaders spend lots of time planning themes, chants and even songs to get our teams as excited as possible so they are motivated to play their best at every game. It is unbelievable how big of an effect it has on players to have somebody cheering for them, or even better, an entire group of people.

Good coaching is also an extremely impactful aspect of a strong team. If a coach puts in effort to bond and connect with their players, they will be way more willing to listen to what they have to say, and try new things their coaches believe would be for the better. If a coach shows that they care about their team, their players will trust them more and there will be better communication between coach and player, or coach and team. It is also important that the coach understands their players and their individual skill levels. If a coach isn't aware if their team's abilities, the team will not be as strong as it has potential to be.

Work ethic is an impactful part of a great team as well. While players can have amazing skill in their sport, if they are the only one putting in effort, the team will not succeed. Everyone needs to put in an equal amount of work and time for the group as a whole to be successful, because they are competing as a team for their school, not for themselves. If everyone is compliant and willing to work together for the good of their team, then the group of people seems more like a team and less like individual players.

A team also has to focus on their mindsets. It is important for a team to not only get excited when something good happens, but to stay excited and keep their energy up, because they feed off of each other when it comes to energy and excitement. Sometimes a team will go on a point streak, and then lose one or two points and lose all of their energy and momentum. It is so important to not get down on yourself or others, because there is no way it will help the team in any way. Going along with this, a positive mindset is key.

A player also has to be willing to make other people on the team better. Part of this is coaching each other, giving constructive criticism and encouraging each other when they do something well, It could also be as simple as waiting around while a coach is giving special attention to another player. For volleyball, it is important to never be standing still, because there is always balls to shag or someone to help.

Another aspect of this is being coachable. A player needs to be willing to listen to their coach and try their best to fix their mistakes as they are pointed out to them. At these times, it is important that they are putting in effort to go above just trying their best, and they are actually trying to outdo themselves for the better of their team.

Spartans continue their athletic career in college

STUDENT	COLLEGE ATTENDING:	PLANNED MAJOR:	WHY YOU CHOSE THIS COLLEGE:	POST COLLEGE PLANS WITH YOUR SPORT:	FAVORITE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS MEMORY:
SAVANNAH BUCK (12)	University of Saint Francis	Nursing, then going back for to get my masters or doctorate to be a nurse practicioner.	I really like the coaching staff, their academic programs and the campus is beautiful.	I am not planning on playing professionally after college. I love the game and want to win a championship.	Going on a state run with my team last year. Those are some of the moments I will never forget.
PAIGE EAKRIGHT (12)	Huntington University	Elementary education with a special education minor.	I was looking for a smaller school that was close to home that I could also play volleyball at.	I have always loved volleyball and wanted to continue in college, but I don't see myself playing after college.	The bus rides with my team to all of our away games and tournaments.
KEVIN FREBEL (12)	Kentucky University	Mechanical or biomedical engineering. But who knows nowadays, am I right?	It's an overall great school for athletics, social life, and academics. The basketball games will be lit.	I really want to make it as an SEC champion. It can prepare me for my ultimate goal of the Olympics.	Winning state was exhilirating, but I love spending time with my team and clownin' with them.
ABBY MOORE (12)	Calvin College	Nursing major	The atmosphere is great, and the coaching staff and volleyball program is awesome, as well as their nursing school.	I'm just playing for fun!	My favorite thing is meeting new people and making lifelong friends.
LINDLEY KISTLER (12)	IPFW	Business major	I love the coaching staff and I was their #1 recruit in my grade. My style of play fits into their system.	Hopefully starting as a freshman and helping the team to make it into the NCAA tournament.	Travelling in the summer for a national tournament for a week and winning it all against national teams.
KARISSA MCLAUGHLIN (11)	Florida University	Sports management or sports communication	The coaching staff and players were who I wanted to surround myself with to be the best person possible.	To be the best basketball player possible and play professionally after college, then go into my major.	Going to state is something I won't forget. The loss motivated my teammates and state is our goal.
BETSY SCHROEDER (12)	Huntington University	Undecided, but leaning on majoring in business	It's a small campus and it was so welcoming. I can strengthen my faith every day.	My goal freshman year is to see how far the team can get. I want to become better physically and more importantly, mentally.	Winning the sectional title, and individually placing third overall.

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Girls swim begins new season with new methods

Coaches take lessons from last year, new training groups split swim team

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

A team can not be built with just anyone; it requires individuals with drive, dedication and passion for the sport. In swimming, without a true love for the sport, it's tough to want to participate. However, young and old swimmers alike all have two things in common: fantastic lung support and a desire to compete through a foundation of hard work. Senior Alex Maher (12), a seasoned swim veteran, has reentered the swim community for her final year with refreshed enthusiasm for the sport.

"I decided to swim this year because I swam for 12 years, but then I had to take a year off because of an injury," Maher said. "I decided to return because I love the people on the team and the coaches. My personal goal for this season is to be a good senior and display the best leadership gained from experience(...)I'm going to worry about the team as a whole,"

The girl's swim team began its season a couple weeks ago, and although they haven't had any meets yet, the team appears optimistic about the upcoming season under the guidance of Bobby Mattin, head coach, and Julie Anderson, assistant coach. With a change in coaches, there are also changes in goals. With one season of high school swimming under his belt, Mattin is enthusiastic for the upcoming season.

"I think that that biggest thing I learned last year was that there's a great passion for this sport in this area, which is exciting, and that's part of the reason why I came here from Boston last year," Mattin said. "There's an incredible momentum that's building here as well, so I think the biggest take away from last year is that the potential for this program is limitless, and that includes competing with the best teams in the state, which is exactly what our goal is. So I'm excited that the past season has definitely made my optimism for this year pretty high. The goal is to put the best team in the pool as we possibly can."

The team specifically made changes in the program by promoting more camaraderie as well as goal setting. With the addition of Anderson, the swimmers have received her well, as some even had her in prior years at other swim clubs. Harley Heinerich (11), a member of the team returning for her third year, believes that Anderson will be a great addition to the staff.

"I think the team will improve working with her, especially with the positive mental aspect of swimming. All the rough practices can get discouraging, but Julie always has a positive attitude and does what she can to make sure everyone is having fun," Heinrich said.

Along with new staff comes new coaching methods, Mattin has chosen to divide the swim team into multiple groups based on dedication to the sport of swimming, and he believes that this is a key element to the success of the team this year. In high school, the two main groups of swimmers are called Senior and National Focus.

"What we've done is we really try to cater to every ability level, and more importantly every commitment level" Mattin said. "There are definitely lots of athletes on this team who are looking for next level training and are willing to commit to a tougher schedule, a tougher training regimen and we have a lot of other swimmers who are going to be chasing that goal as well."

National Focus is catered more towards the highly committed people, as they have an attendance requirement that demands approximately 10 practices per week. While the Senior group still puts in several hours of practice a week, it has a less demanding time schedule which means it caters to more swimmers.

With the combination of dedicated coaches as well as swimmers, this year's team is looking to make a big splash in the upcoming season.

SPORTS

Football ends with defeat from Greyhounds

After overcoming Carroll in sectionals season ends with a fall against Carmel

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Writer

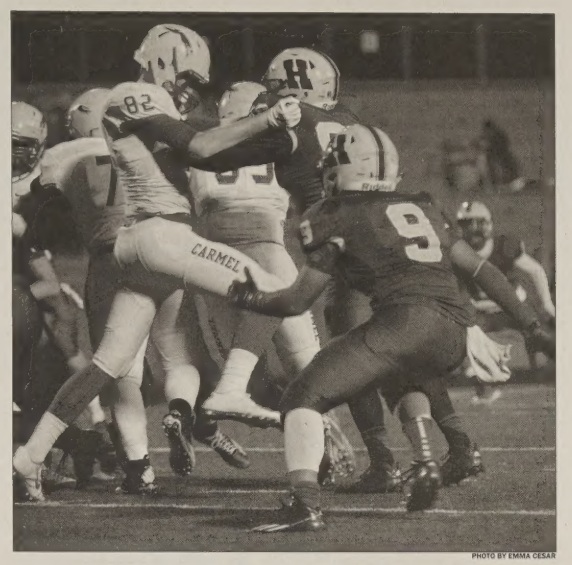


PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

Spartans face Carmel Greyhounds after sectional win against Carroll Chargers.

For a school that has not won a sectional football game in years, this season drew attention from a lot of Spartans.

This season's football team saw a better record and performance than in years past. The season, sadly, drew to a close with the team's defeat against Carmel.

"Since the beginning of the season, the team changed their offensive game a lot, and made a lot of progress on their passing game" Matt Dunlap (11), statistics recorder, said regarding the team's progress this season.

From the beginning of the team's season, one of their biggest struggles was their second-half playing.

The team never failed to start the game going full steam ahead and prepared to go all the way. Then, however, the team would have difficulty recovering in the second half, and would sometimes fall just short of a victory.

Players, though, are optimistic that this is something that they will be able to work on and tackle next season.

"Our second-half game is something the team and myself are really hoping to work on next year, and hopefully that will improve our record just that extra bit," Carson Cox (11) said of the team's goals for next season.

Along with the team trying to improve their game, the team will have to compensate for their outgoing seniors, and change their game plan to adjust for these missing players.

"Especially with Ben Skowronek (12), wide receiver, leaving, I can see the team going to a lot more of a running game for next season, as opposed to the extensive passing that they stuck with this season," Dunlap said of his expectations for next season.

> **"The victory over the Chargers was a giant moral victory, and even though we couldn't top Carmel, I think that this will really set the tone and a goal for next year,"**
>
> **CARSON COX (11)**
> *Free Safety and Outside Line Backer*

Despite the leaving seniors, hope is not lost. There are good prospects in the incoming junior class.

"Some of the players who are coming in could definitely have a good effect on the team," Dunlap said. "Some of the players like Jiya Wright (10) and Tahj Curry (12) could definitely influence the team for the better and are really promising for their next season. With Drew Keszei (11) returning and some of the other veterans, we should be pretty good on leadership. But I really do see the team doing a lot more running, because we're losing pretty much our entire receiving core, which could be a problem."

Hopefully all of the talent coming in balance out all of the graduating seniors, and the team doesn't take too big of a hit from the change in lineup.

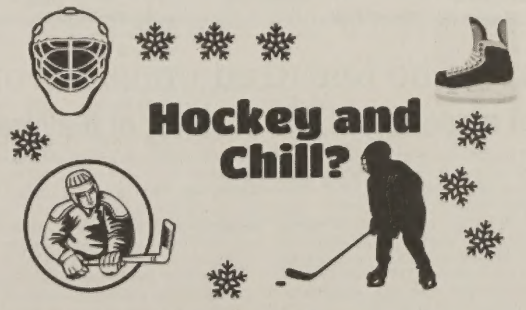
The players remain optimistic that they will be able to start a tradition of winning sectionals, especially considering that the victory was over the rival school Carroll, following the regular season loss to the Chargers.

"The victory over the Chargers was a giant moral victory, and even though we couldn't top Carmel, I think that this will really set the tone and a goal for next year," Cox said.

Hockey season under way with senior captain's leadership

Team challenged with new coaching staff members and smaller roster

BY WILLOW PIERCE
Writer



"My favorite part about hockey is how I can step out on the ice and suddenly all my other problems and stress just disappear," Peri Darmofal (10) said.

Stress may be just what the players are experiencing this year. A new coach, a smaller roster, recent injuries and two female members are just some of the new twists to the team.

The team this year is smaller. While they usually have up to 20 players, this year there are only 14.

"I think for what we were given we are doing pretty good," Darmofal said.

Included in the14 players on the team are two girls, Emily Morthost (11) and Darmofal, whom has been playing hockey for nine years.

"There are more boys in the sport here because it is a boys' sport." Darmofal said. "But in other areas like Michigan, it is very common for girls to play hockey."

Darmofal recently broke her collarbone and was sidelined for seven weeks.

Since hockey is a full contact sport, many injuries can happen during a game.

"I've seen broken bones and concussions," Darmofal said. "Recently, a player on Carroll's team had a bone in his leg shatter."

"My sophomore year, we saw a kid carted off," Jimmy Rapoza (12) said. "Our defensemen open-eyed just destroyed him. That's the worst I've seen."

> **"We are a young team and that in itself is a challenge."**
>
> **JIMMY RAPOZA (12)**
> *Hockey Team Captain*

Rapoza recently became the captain of the team and wants the team to do well this year.

"It's different this year, it's a rebuilding year." Rapoza said. "We are a young team and that in itself is a challenge."

Another change for the team is a new coach. Last year's coach is now working with Northrop's hockey team, who also happens to be one of the Spartans' biggest rivals.

"We always have a little bit more venom when we play them," Rapoza said. "But they're fun games."

With the season getting on its way, it will be interesting to watch how far the team goes with a coach who has worked with them before, Kobi Peters.

"The way [the team] performs, the way they do in the circumstances that we are playing a team that isn't even in the same league.. They stay with it till the end," Rapoza said.

For over 20 years, the Spartans hockey team has been a part of the Fort Wayne High School Hockey Association (FWHSHA) along with the Bishop Dwenger Saints, Carroll Chargers, Leo Lions, Summit City Panthers, and the Fort Wayne Bruins.

Also in the league are two midget teams (somewhat like an allstar/travel team) who compete in various tournaments in and out of state and consist of players from the high school teams.

Games take place on Wednesday nights, but check the Fort Wayne High School Hockey Association (FWHSHA) website to learn exact dates and times that the team plays.

Brayden Law wins second place at cross country state finals

Spartana: How long have you been participating in cross country?
Law: Cross country started in sixth grade.
Spartana: What drove you to start running? Why are you interested in it?
Law: I started doing track in third grade, as a sprinter, and in fifth grade I did the mile in track and that was kind of like a long distance event, and then I just really liked it so I started doing cross country and I guess the bug bit me ever since.
Spartana: How do you prepare for all of your meets?
Law: It usually takes like a hard week of training and everything. A lot of speed workouts and a lot of tempo days and stuff but I mean it just some good training all week and then when the meet comes you know you're ready for it.
Spartana: How do you feel the team, overall, did this year?
Law: The team did alright I mean we didn't- I feel like we could've improved a lot more this year; I mean we definitely had a good season. Some guys had some great times and everything but uh I mean definitely could've stepped it up, I mean it's the team you know we can always do better next year.
Spartana: What advice would you give to a beginner runner?
Law: Honestly anybody who is a beginner runner, it's a kind of a struggle at first to figure out what's kind of going on. Once you get used to it I mean you'll know and stuff, things will kind of fall into place. Just don't give up at first because it is kind of difficult.
Spartana: How do you keep yourself going while you're running?
Law: I guess mainly the biggest thing like when I'm running is what the prize at the end is. I mean like if it's training you know it's, I'm gearing up for the next meet and when it's racing it's just the best of my ability is kind of what I'm thinking about while I'm running.
Spartana: Who supports you throughout all of this?
Law: There are a lot of people who support me and I really appreciate anybody who does. It's usually the guys on the cross country team. My coaches definitely support me. I have a coach in Ludington, Mich. who I keep in contact with throughout; I meet up with him during the summer, so there is like a lot of people who support me, especially the guys on the team. You know I have a girlfriend, Hailey Johnson, she goes to Carroll, but she always supporting me and I just really appreciate anybody who does come out and support me because going out and running is hard to do and when you have people there supporting you it's like, easier.
Spartana: Do you plan on continuing running? If you do, how will you improve for next year?
Law: Yeah, I plan on running in college, I still haven't decided where I am going but improving for next year, it is going to be a whole different ball game, I think longer distances and stuff but I mean just mainly the decision I guess you could say right now is the main part.
Spartana: What colleges are you looking at right now?
Law: I'm kind of looking at Michigan, I'm looking at IU and I'm looking at Grand Valley. Those are like the main three. I don't know, I plan on making my decision in like January or February.

-- Alexis Jordan

PHOTO BY LOGAN MULLINIX

Law leads the pack at the New Haven Classic

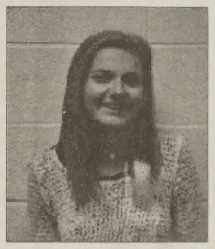
Necessary aspects of a strong team beyond skill in the specific sport

While a great sports team obviously has strong skill levels in the sport they are playing, there is major aspects of their team that make them stronger outside of their ability to hit, run or kick.

The importance of a close bond between teammates is a large part of what makes a strong team strong. A player who is close with their teammates is able to communicate with their team better, and the team can communicate back to them as well. Players are not afraid to give constructive criticism to a person on their team, and they won't hold back on words of encouragement either. If players are comfortable with the people around them, they are less afraid of making mistakes and are more confident on the court, field or track. It is also important that the team is close outside of the field, court or track. Close friendships result in close teammates.

In almost any sport, communication is an extremely important aspect. For an example, if a volleyball team was silent, they would never win any games. There is three contacts, and each one consists of multiple players calling the ball in one way or another. The passer, the player who has the first contact, has to yell out that they are getting the ball, most of the time calling out either 'mine,' or 'got it.' Once their ball is in the air, the setter, who has second contact, has to not only listen for their hitters who are calling for the set, but also yell out where they are placing the ball. Finally the hitters have to call their set, and exactly how they want it to be set. Once the ball goes over, everyone has to try their best to call out where they think the ball will be hit on the court, so the passers can move accordingly.

KAYLEE'S COURT



BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

Aside from communication, support is a huge part of team success. Whether it is friends and family who come to a game, or there is a student section that shows up to every game, support always motivates a team to play better. Student sections are a big part of most schools, especially Homestead. Our football games and basketball games have always been the most popular events our student sections to attend and they are always loud, rowdy and excited. Our student section leaders spend lots of time planning themes, chants and even songs to get our teams as excited as possible so they are motivated to play their best at every game. It is unbelievable how big of an effect it has on players to have somebody cheering for them, or even better, an entire group of people.

Good coaching is also an extremely impactful aspect of a strong team. If a coach puts in effort to bond and connect with their players, they will be way more willing to listen to what they have to say, and try new things their coaches believe would be for the better. If a coach shows that they care about their team, their players will trust them more and there will be better communication between coach and player, or coach and team. It is also important that the coach understands their players and their individual skill levels. If a coach isn't aware if their team's abilities, the team will not be as strong as it has potential to be.

Work ethic is an impactful part of a great team as well. While players can have amazing skill in their sport, if they are the only one putting in effort, the team will not succeed. Everyone needs to put in an equal amount of work and time for the group as a whole to be successful, because they are competing as a team for their school, not for themselves. If everyone is compliant and willing to work together for the good of their team, then the group of people seems more like a team and less like individual players.

A team also has to focus on their mindsets. It is important for a team to not only get excited when something good happens, but to stay excited and keep their energy up, because they feed off of each other when it comes to energy and excitement. Sometimes a team will go on a point streak, and then lose one or two points and lose all of their energy and momentum. It is so important to not get down on yourself or others, because there is no way it will help the team in any way. Going along with this, a positive mindset is key.

A player also has to be willing to make other people on the team better. Part of this is coaching each other, giving constructive criticism and encouraging each other when they do something well. It could also be as simple as waiting around while a coach is giving special attention to another player. For volleyball, it is important to never be standing still, because there is always balls to shag or someone to help.

Another aspect of this is being coachable. A player needs to be willing to listen to their coach and try their best to fix their mistakes as they are pointed out to them. At these times, it is important that they are putting in effort to go above just trying their best, and they are actually trying to outdo themselves for the better of their team.

Spartans continue their athletic career in college

STUDENT	COLLEGE ATTENDING:	PLANNED MAJOR:	WHY YOU CHOSE THIS COLLEGE:	POST COLLEGE PLANS WITH YOUR SPORT:	FAVORITE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS MEMORY:
SAVANNAH BUCK (12)	University of Saint Francis	Nursing, then going back for to get my masters or doctorate to be a nurse practicioner.	I really like the coaching staff, their academic programs and the campus is beautiful.	I am not planning on playing professionally after college. I love the game and want to win a championship.	Going on a state run with my team last year. Those are some of the moments I will never forget.
PAIGE EAKRIGHT (12)	Huntington University	Elementary education with a special education minor.	I was looking for a smaller school that was close to home that I could also play volleyball at.	I have always loved volleyball and wanted to continue in college, but I don't see myself playing after college.	The bus rides with my team to all of our away games and tournaments.
KEVIN FREBEL (12)	Kentucky University	Mechanical or biomedical engineering. But who knows nowadays, am I right?	It's an overall great school for athletics, social life, and academics. The basketball games will be lit.	I really want to make it as an SEC champion. It can prepare me for my ultimate goal of the Olympics.	Winning state was exhilirating, but I love spending time with my team and clownin' with them.
ABBY MOORE (12)	Calvin College	Nursing major	The atmosphere is great, and the coaching staff and volleyball program is awesome, as well as their nursing school.	I'm just playing for fun!	My favorite thing is meeting new people and making lifelong friends.
LINDLEY KISTLER (12)	IPFW	Business major	I love the coaching staff and I was their #1 recruit in my grade. My style of play fits into their system.	Hopefully starting as a freshman and helping the team to make it into the NCAA tournament.	Travelling in the summer for a national tournament for a week and winning it all against national teams.
KARISSA MCLAUGHLIN (11)	Florida University	Sports management or sports communication	The coaching staff and players were who I wanted to surround myself with to be the best person possible.	To be the best basketball player possible and play professionally after college, then go into my major.	Going to state is something I won't forget. The loss motivated my teammates and state is our goal.
BETSY SCHROEDER (12)	Huntington University	Undecided, but leaning on majoring in business	It's a small campus and it was so welcoming. I can strengthen my faith every day.	My goal freshman year is to see how far the team can get. I want to become better physically and more importantly, mentally.	Winning the sectional title, and individually placing third overall.

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Girls swim begins new season with new methods

Coaches take lessons from last year, new training groups split swim team

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

A team can not be built with just anyone; it requires individuals with drive, dedication and passion for the sport. In swimming, without a true love for the sport, it's tough to want to participate. However, young and old swimmers alike all have two things in common: fantastic lung support and a desire to compete through a foundation of hard work. Senior Alex Maher (12), a seasoned swim veteran, has reentered the swim community for her final year with refreshed enthusiasm for the sport.

"I decided to swim this year because I swam for 12 years, but then I had to take a year off because of an injury," Maher said. "I decided to return because I love the people on the team and the coaches. My personal goal for this season is to be a good senior and display the best leadership gained from experience(...)I'm going to worry about the team as a whole."

The girl's swim team began its season a couple weeks ago, and although they haven't had any meets yet, the team appears optimistic about the upcoming season under the guidance of Bobby Mattin, head coach, and Julie Anderson, assistant coach. With a change in coaches, there are also changes in goals. With one season of high school swimming under his belt, Mattin is enthusiastic for the upcoming season.

"I think that that biggest thing I learned last year was that there's a great passion for this sport in this area, which is exciting, and that's part of the reason why I came here from Boston last year," Mattin said. "There's an incredible momentum that's building here as well, so I think the biggest take away from last year is that the potential for this program is limitless, and that includes competing with the best teams in the state, which is exactly what our goal is. So I'm excited that the past season has definitely made my optimism for this year pretty high. The goal is to put the best team in the pool as we possibly can."

The team specifically made changes in the program by promoting more camaraderie as well as goal setting. With the addition of Anderson, the swimmers have received her well, as some even had her in prior years at other swim clubs. Harley Heinerich (11), a member of the team returning for her third year, believes that Anderson will be a great addition to the staff.

"I think the team will improve working with her, especially with the positive mental aspect of swimming. All the rough practices can get discouraging, but Julie always has a positive attitude and does what she can to make sure everyone is having fun," Heinrich said.

Along with new staff comes new coaching methods, Mattin has chosen to divide the swim team into multiple groups based on dedication to the sport of swimming, and he believes that this is a key element to the success of the team this year. In high school, the two main groups of swimmers are called Senior and National Focus.

"What we've done is we really try to cater to every ability level, and more importantly every commitment level" Mattin said. "There are definitely lots of athletes on this team who are looking for next level training and are willing to commit to a tougher schedule, a tougher training regimen and we have a lot of other swimmers who are going to be chasing that goal as well."

National Focus is catered more towards the highly committed people, as they have an attendance requirement that demands approximately 10 practices per week. While the Senior group still puts in several hours of practice a week, it has a less demanding time schedule which means it caters to more swimmers.

With the combination of dedicated coaches as well as swimmers, this year's team is looking to make a big splash in the upcoming season.

the SPARTANA

issue three
volume forty five
december 4, 2015
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

INSIDE NOW

NEWS
Debunked analyzes myth of tunnel network running under school with help of Steve Lake, assistant principal. 2

LIFE
Astronomy class successful in inaugural year. Step-by-step guide to survive Black Friday Shopping this year. 4

FEATURE
Graduates-turned-teachers reflect on why they returned to teach where they graduated. 8

OPINION
Left and Right: Writers present varying viewpoints over timeliness of holiday celebrations during month of Nov. 3

SPORTS
Q&A with nationally competitive cross country runner. College commits weigh in on decision-making process. 6

ONLINE
visit www.hhsspartana.com.
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

www.hhsspartana.com
A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist
Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Once a Always a SPARTAN PAGE 8

Shooting with the Stars

ABOVE: The 2013-2014 boys basketball season was successful, but paled to the state-winning season that followed. BELOW: Meanwhile, the girls team built up its roster of underclassmen, ending the 2014-2015 season as the state runner-up.

Basketball teams prepare to uphold momentum of previous seasons

BOYS

VARSITY ROSTER
2015-2016

02 Jake Wolfcale
04 Ivory Wilson
10 Jack Ferguson
12 Tahj Curry
14 Chase Neiswonger
20 Parker Manges
24 TeRon Taylor
30 Eric Martin
32 Sam Buck
42 Brandon Durnell

GIRLS

VARSITY ROSTER
2015-2016

02 Kara Gealy
04 Madisen Parker
10 Teryn Kline
12 Karissa McLaughlin
14 Nicole Weaver
20 Savannah Buck
22 Tomi Taiwo
24 Lauren Cunningham
30 Haley Swing
32 Lindley Kistler
34 Jazmyne Geist
42 Brianna Lucas

Coming into a new season with high expectations is typical for any sports team. For the Lady Spartans, though, the pressure is at an all-time high. After suffering a defeat in the state finals last season to the Columbus North Bulldogs, the Lady Spartans have retained most of their starting roster. Savannah Buck (12), a University of Saint Francis commit, Lindley Kistler (12), an Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne commit, and Karissa McLaughlin (11), a University of Florida commit, have worked to help the team seal the number two spot in MaxPrep's Class 4A rankings. Off to a 4-0 start, the Lady Spartans have won every game thus far by a margin of more than 29 points.

While the boys team has been included in the top 25 Class 4A teams in the state, its varsity roster includes several new faces. Tahj Curry (12) and Jake Wolfcale (12) return as state champions, while fellow senior Eric Martin joins the team as a rookie. Adams Central transfer TeRon Taylor (12) has the potential to prove to be a steady addition to the Spartans' roster. A new #BenchMob has also made its debut, cheering on the team alongside the student section.

LEFT: Nicole Weaver (12) dribbles down the court against Marion. MIDDLE: The girls huddle up before playing the Giants. RIGHT: Madisen Parker (11) looks for a pass.

"ONCE A SPARTAN ALWAYS A SPARTAN"

High school is a microcosm of life beyond grammar school: students develop networks of friends and teachers; the extracurriculars allow them to have a taste of a career choice; and the homework induces the development of the responsibility students will need in college and the workforce. Students dream of moving onto college, where discernment of matters is left completely to the student, a newfound freedom in the young academics' lives. With all of the options and alternatives ahead of a high school grad, what is the likeliness of one returning to his or her high school for a career? The number of Homestead grads standing at the front of the classroom and monitoring the hallways may surprise you.

TESSA VIRGILIO
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

She teaches in the classroom next to her old French classroom. His former teacher was retiring and told him to apply for the position at his old high school. She participated in the first Dirty Duckers tournament and went to middle school in the freshman academy. These are the teachers and administrators who sat through high school in the same desks you do now, but never had to ask for a charger.

Steve Lake, assistant principal and graduate of 1981, had two passions when entering his collegiate studies and the one he chose to pursue was not education, initially. Within his freshman year at IPFW, and his next three years at Ball State, Lake took classes in pursuit of becoming a Park Ranger in Park or Conservation officer locally.

"I took two years of criminal justice classes while taking under graduate classes in college," Lake said. "I would be living in Montana or Wyoming – I would not have met my wife of 25 plus years – a completely different life."

After coming to the realization it would be too difficult to find a position in the field, he decided to teach, an occupation a majority of his family had proved to thrive in. Lake's grandfather, three uncles, aunt, father, and four cousins have taken positions as teacher, professor, or principal.

"One of my former teachers at Homestead knew I was a first year teacher in another local school district, and he called me and told me he was retiring and he wanted me to apply for his position," Lake said. "I applied and interviewed for the job and 29 and a half years later I can proudly say once a Spartan always a Spartan."

Brian Nicholson, math teacher and graduate of 1994, shifted gears in his studies as he increasingly discovered what his priorities would be in choosing his occupation. While studying at IPFW, tutoring at the college, and through church involvement, he found great interest in staying local: he was "born and raised in Southwest."

"(My first career choice) didn't help people and it didn't take me long to figure that out," Nicholson said. "I was hooked on teaching the first time I was able to make a topic easier for a student to understand and eager to look deeper. Ever since then I have been constantly reminded that I want to teach as I get to know a new group of incredible young adults each year that share that same experience."

When teaching was choice, Nicholson had his sights set on where he learned his high school arithmetic.

"HHS is my home," Nicholson said. "I was born and raised in Southwest and I value the high academic standards that are set in this district. My goal was to be in a school that demanded excellence and HHS was at the top of my list."

For Tisha Bowman, math teacher and graduate of 1993, teaching as a career did not even make the list. For two years of college, Bowman was set on studying to be a veterinarian. However, as a college sophomore in a biology class, she was to dissect a living scorpion while it was anesthetized and would kill it in the study. This brought forth an ethical issue and the concern of ever getting into medical school with a failing grade for a lab she would not complete.

"Therefore, I had to do some soul searching and change my major," Bowman. "It's amazing how one small creature can redefine one's entire life and future."

With a gift for helping others understand math, Bowman was naturally lead in the direction of teaching.

"I tutored many high school and college students when I was a grad student," Bowman said. "I also instructed color guard. When I would have a member's parents calling me saying they couldn't come to practice any more until the student's grade in math was up, I would volunteer to help. That's somewhat how I fell into teaching. I just happened to be offered a job where I was instructing."

She attended IPFW, and after studying at Western Oregon University, and Portland State University, she moved back to Fort Wayne and applied to Homestead after having her third baby.

"It's crazy," Bowman said. "My classroom is next to the room I used to take French in from Mr. Kline. The math hall is still where it was when I went here 25 years ago. I had Mr. Winebrenner for Geometry and Mrs. McCombs for AMAT. The fact that they are still here says a lot about the camaraderie of the teachers."

She does not think "there was ever a time (she) didn't want to be in school." As fond of the school atmosphere as Alyssa Braman, guidance counselor and graduate of 2006, is, it came as no surprise that she landed in an educational position.

"I changed from wanting to be a teacher to wanting to be a school counselor after I was a camp counselor at Camp Lakewood in high school," Braman said. "I loved working with youth in a more personal way that wasn't in the classroom."

At Indiana University-Bloomington, Braman obtained her bachelor degree in Psychology and then studied at Ball State University to get her master's in School Counseling.

"My first year as a school counselor, I worked at a school in South Bend," Braman said. "I was away from family and really missed Fort Wayne. That winter and spring, I literally checked the Southwest Allen County website for jobs daily. One day, an opening for a school counselor came open. It was a miracle."

Andrew Dunn, Station Manager of WCYT The Point 91 FM and graduate of 2006, brought himself back from Los Angeles to Fort Wayne, IN, where he was a student leader of The Point in high school.

After attending Indiana University and graduating with degrees in Telecommunications, The History of Rock and Roll, and music studies, Dunn saw himself in the coming years "(fighting) for a job, working long hours, trying to find (his) niche or working in a recording studio."

"I was in the middle of an internship with a music promotion company out in Los Angeles when Mr. Schenkel started to get the feeling that my current job could become a possibility," Dunn said. "After the internship was over I came back to Fort Wayne and started working at WOWO (News Talk 92.3 FM) and volunteering for WCYT."

Having put so much of himself into The Point in high school, it seemed natural to return to his media beginnings at the school.

"Many of my friends ask me how I do it, as they had a terrible high school experience, but I enjoyed my time here and I still do," Dunn said.

"I was hooked on teaching the first time I was able to make a topic easier for a student to understand and eager to look deeper."
-Brian Nicholson, math teacher

Just a few of the Homestead graduates who walk the halls...

the SPARTANA

issue three
volume forty five
december 4, 2015
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

INSIDENOW

NEWS Debunked analyzes myth of tunnel network running under school with help of Steve Lake, assistant principal. 2

LIFE Astronomy class successful in inaugural year. Step-by-step guide to survive Black Friday Shopping this year. 4

FEATURE Graduates-turned-teachers reflect on why they returned to teach where they graduated. 8

OPINION Left and Right: Writers present varying viewpoints over timeliness of holiday celebrations during month of Nov. 3

SPORTS Q&A with nationally competitive cross country runner. College commits weigh in on decision-making process. 6

ONLINE visit www.hhsspartana.com.
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

www.hhsspartana.com A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Once a Always a SPARTAN PAGE 8

Shooting with the Stars

ABOVE: The 2013-2014 boys basketball season was successful, but paled to the state-winning season that followed. BELOW: Meanwhile, the girls team built up its roster of underclassmen, ending the 2014-2015 season as the state runner-up.

Basketball teams prepare to uphold momentum of previous seasons

BOYS

VARSITY ROSTER
2015-2016

02	Jake Wolfcale
04	Ivory Wilson
10	Jack Ferguson
12	Tahj Curry
14	Chase Neiswonger
20	Parker Manges
24	TeRon Taylor
30	Eric Martin
32	Sam Buck
42	Brandon Durnell

GIRLS

VARSITY ROSTER
2015-2016

02	Kara Gealy
04	Madisen Parker
10	Teryn Kline
12	Karissa McLaughlin
14	Nicole Weaver
20	Savannah Buck
22	Tomi Taiwo
24	Lauren Cunningham
30	Haley Swing
32	Lindley Kistler
34	Jazmyne Geist
42	Brianna Lucas

Coming into a new season with high expectations is typical for any sports team. For the Lady Spartans, though, the pressure is at an all-time high. After suffering a defeat in the state finals last season to the Columbus North Bulldogs, the Lady Spartans have retained most of their starting roster. Savannah Buck (12), a University of Saint Francis commit, Lindley Kistler (12), an Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne commit, and Karissa McLaughlin (11), a University of Florida commit, have worked to help the team seal the number two spot in MaxPrep's Class 4A rankings. Off to a 4-0 start, the Lady Spartans have won every game thus far by a margin of more than 29 points.

While the boys team has been included in the top 25 Class 4A teams in the state, its varsity roster includes several new faces. Tahj Curry (12) and Jake Wolfcale (12) return as state champions, while fellow senior Eric Martin joins the team as a rookie. Adams Central transfer TeRon Taylor (12) has the potential to prove to be a steady addition to the Spartans' roster. A new #BenchMob has also made its debut, cheering on the team alongside the student section.

LEFT: Nicole Weaver (12) dribbles down the court against Marion. MIDDLE: The girls huddle up before playing the Giants. RIGHT: Madisen Parker (11) looks for a pass.

"ONCE A SPARTAN ALWAYS A SPARTAN"

High school is a microcosm of life beyond grammar school: students develop networks of friends and teachers; the extracurriculars allow them to have a taste of a career choice; and the homework induces the development of the responsibility students will need in college and the workforce. Students dream of moving onto college, where discernment of matters is left completely to the student, a newfound freedom in the young academics' lives. With all of the options and alternatives ahead of a high school grad, what is the likeliness of one returning to his or her high school for a career? The number of Homestead grads standing at the front of the classroom and monitoring the hallways may surprise you.

TESSA VIRGILIO
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

She teaches in the classroom next to her old French classroom. His former teacher was retiring and told him to apply for the position at his old high school. She participated in the first Dirty Duckers tournament and went to middle school in the freshman academy. These are the teachers and administrators who sat through high school in the same desks you do now, but never had to ask for a charger.

Steve Lake, assistant principal and graduate of 1981, had two passions when entering his collegiate studies and the one he chose to pursue was not education, initially. Within his freshman year at IPFW and his next three years at Ball State, Lake took classes in pursuit of becoming a Park Ranger in a National Park or Conservation officer locally.

"I took two years of criminal justice classes while taking under graduate classes in college," Lake said. "I would be living in Montana or Wyoming – I would not have met my wife of 25 plus years – a completely different life."

After coming to the realization it would be too difficult to find a position in the field, he decided to teach, an occupation a majority of his family had proved to thrive in. Lake's grandfather, three uncles, aunt, father, and four cousins have taken positions as teacher, professor, or principal.

"One of my former teachers at Homestead knew I was a first year teacher in another local school district, and he called me and told me he was retiring and he wanted me to apply for his position," Lake said. "I applied and interviewed for the job and 29 and a half years later I can proudly say once a Spartan always a Spartan."

Brian Nicholson, math teacher and graduate of 1994, shifted gears in his studies as he increasingly discovered what his priorities would be in choosing his occupation. While studying at IPFW, tutoring at the college, and through church involvement, he found great interest in staying local: he was "born and raised in Southwest."

"My first career choice) didn't help people and it didn't take me long to figure that out," Nicholson said. "I was hooked on teaching the first time I was able to make a topic easier for a student to understand and eager to look deeper. Ever since then I have been constantly reminded that I want to teach as I get to know a new group of incredible young adults each year that share that same experience."

When teaching was choice, Nicholson had his sights set on where he learned his high school arithmetic.

"HHS is my home," Nicholson said. "I was born and raised in Southwest and I value the high academic standards that are set in this district. My goal was to be in a school that demanded excellence and HHS was at the top of my list."

For Tisha Bowman, math teacher and graduate of 1993, teaching as a career did not even make the list. For two years of college, Bowman was set on studying to be a veterinarian. However, as a college sophomore in a biology class, she was to dissect a living scorpion while it was anesthetized and would kill it in the study. This brought forth an ethical issue and the concern of ever getting into medical school with a failing grade for a lab she would not complete.

"Therefore, I had to do some soul searching and change my major," Bowman. "It's amazing how one small creature can redefine one's entire life and future."

With a gift for helping others understand math, Bowman was naturally lead in the direction of teaching.

"I tutored many high school and college students when I was a grad student," Bowman said. "I also instructed color guard. When I would have a member's parents calling me saying they couldn't come to practice any more until the student's grade in math was up, I would volunteer to help. That's somewhat how I fell into teaching. I just happened to be offered a job where I was instructing."

She attended IPFW, and after studying at Western Oregon University, and Portland State University, she moved back to Fort Wayne and applied to Homestead after having her third baby.

"It's crazy," Bowman said. "My classroom is next to the room I used to take French in from Mr. Kline. The math hall is still where it was when I went here 25 years ago. I had Mr. Winebrenner for Geometry and Mrs. McCombs for AMAT. The fact that they are still here says a lot about the camaraderie of the teachers."

She does not think "there was ever a time (she) didn't want to be in school." As fond of the school atmosphere as Alyssa Braman, guidance counselor and graduate of 2006, is, it came as no surprise that she landed in an educational position.

"I changed from wanting to be a teacher to wanting to be a school counselor after I was a camp counselor at Camp Lakewood in high school," Braman said. "I loved working with youth in a more personal way that wasn't in the classroom."

At Indiana University-Bloomington, Braman obtained her bachelor degree in Psychology and then studied at Ball State University to get her master's in School Counseling.

"My first year as a school counselor, I worked at a school in South Bend," Braman said. "I was away from family and really missed Fort Wayne. That winter and spring, I literally checked the Southwest Allen County website for jobs daily. One day, an opening for a school counselor came open. It was a miracle."

Andrew Dunn, Station Manager of WCYT The Point 91 FM and graduate of 2006, brought himself back from Los Angeles to Fort Wayne, IN, where he was a student leader of The Point in high school.

After attending Indiana University and graduating with degrees in Telecommunications, The History of Rock and Roll, and music studies, Dunn saw himself in the coming years "(fighting) for a job, working long hours, trying to find (his) niche or working in a recording studio."

"I was in the middle of an internship with a music promotion company out in Los Angeles when Mr. Schenkel started to get the feeling that my current job could become a possibility," Dunn said. "After the internship was over I came back to Fort Wayne and started working at WOWO (News Talk 92.3 FM) and volunteering for WCYT."

Having put so much of himself into The Point in high school, it seemed natural to return to his media beginnings at the school.

"Many of my friends ask me how I do it, as they had a terrible high school experience, but I enjoyed my time here and I still do," Dunn said.

I was hooked on teaching the first time I was able to make a topic easier for a student to understand and eager to look deeper.

-Brian Nicholson, math teacher

Just a few of the Homestead graduates who walk the halls...

designed by michal spanjer

NEWS

BRIEFS

Students who took the PSAT in Oct. will receive test results by mid-Dec. in Advisory.

Austin Render (12) and Kolin Davis (12) each placed first at the Terri Hemmert High School Student Radio & Audio Awards at the High School and College Radio Conference at Columbia College Chicago on Oct. 17.

Jan. 21 will be a designated snow make up day.

SACS Special Education Parent Group will meet Jan. 29 in the district transportation room at 12:30 p.m. All community members are invited.

Semi-Formal will be held in the cafeteria Dec. 19 at 7:00 p.m. Guest forms must be turned in to the discipline office by Dec. 9. Tickets are available at all lunches for $15.

Kylie Poling (12) received a Super Rating in Sports Writing at the National High School Journalism Convention.

Student Services office will close at 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 18 until 7:00 a.m. on Jan. 4. Parchment transcript requests must be filed before 1:00 p.m. Dec. 18 to meet Jan. 1 deadlines.

DEBUNKED: TUNNELS?

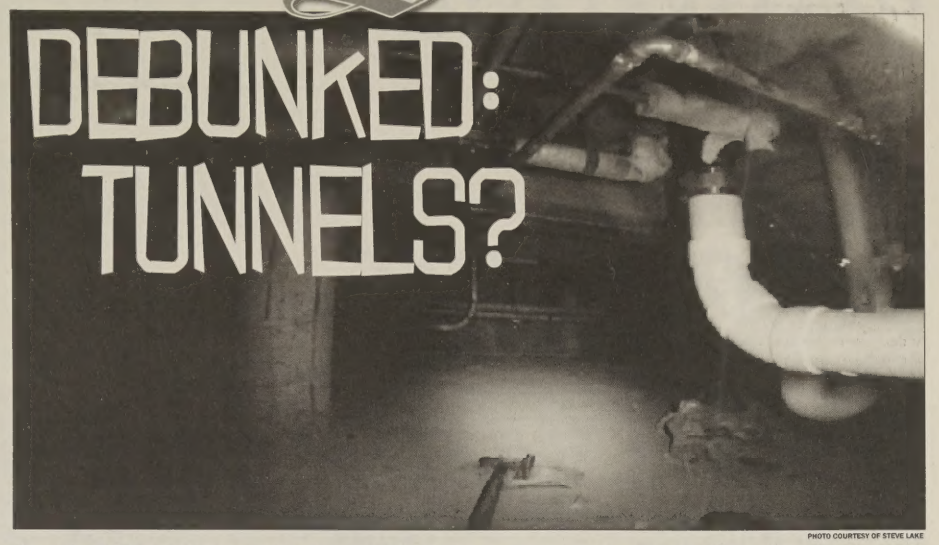


PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE LAKE

Steve Lake, assistant principal, investigates the tunnels with a GoPro, encountering surprises including writing on the wall and a baby doll.

Myth: There are several tunnels underneath the school.

Status: True!

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Down the hallway towards the 500s wing, there is a door with a sign that says "Tunnel Access." There is also a similar door near the 700s wing.

Many have speculated what lies beyond these doors, but inside both doors open into simple janitor closets and some pipework. However, recently uncovered, there is a panel beneath the pipes that lead to tunnels that connect the two closets.

The special education sector, in addition to few other classrooms, used to be an elementary school during the 1960s while the rest of the high school was being built around it.

The tunnels were originally in place in case of rocket fire from around the globe, but once the high school was finished, the elementary school moved to Aboite, and the tunnels were retired since they could no longer protect the entire student body.

Some may have noticed how the tiles in the 700s wing are a different color, older and duller.

If one follows these tiles, they lead through the special education hallway, through the TV studio (even though that area is carpeted), and back into the 500s wing by the cafeteria before connecting up to the other tunnel door.

The tunnels lie directly beneath all of these old tiles. The reason there are ramps from the main hallway to those classrooms is so students walk over the tunnels.

Last month, in order to help with the investigation regarding the tunnels, Steve Lake, assistant principal, obtained permits and safety gear and dove with a GoPro into the tunnels.

He returned safely an hour later with footage of what he found down there, including pipeworks, graffiti and a baby doll. These videos can be seen now on hhsspartana.com.

Do you have a rumor to disprove or a myth to debunk? Send any suspicious leads to thespartana@gmail.com with a subject line "POSSIBLE DEBUNKED", and your questions might be answered next issue.

City readies for Holidayfest among improvement plans

Fort Wayne looking for greater appeal among young crowds through beautification and more dining options

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-In-Chief

In an effort to increase its relevancy amongst younger generations at risk for moving out of the Fort Wayne area, the city has proposed a horde of long-term renovations.

Among these renovations includes an improved arts district, a waterfront boardwalk and surrounding area built along the city's rivers, and a dining district along the proposed boardwalk.

While these improvements will be years in the making, the city has revamped its holiday festivities for the current winter season. At the Festival of Gingerbread, architects used gingerbread as a medium to display to visitors what the downtown district may look like once complete.

Existing businesses are participating in the city's ploys to attract more visitors downtown as well. The Downtown Holiday Window Decorating Contest, sponsored by Downtown Fort Wayne, opened voting on Nov. 25, the same day as the Night of Lights, which saw the lighting of Christmas lights along various buildings throughout the city.

The Festival of Trees closed Dec. 2 with a community sing-along at the Embassy Theatre led by the Fort Wayne Children's Choir, directed by Jonathan Busarow. The Fort Wayne Ballet has contributed to the holiday cheer with its annual performance of The Nutcracker.

The Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society will once again host a Santa Claus train, allowing children a chance to ride in an old caboose car with their beloved holiday character. 3,500 tickets were sold within 24 hours, bringing up interesting prospectives for the Railroad Historical Society in the future. The society has proposed to allow a 765 engine to pull passenger cars throughout the area.

Improvement ideas have abounded in the past year; however, these ideas have a renewed relevancy with the city's determination to attract more visitors and potential immigrants. Holiday attractions bring the visitors, but the long-lasting improvements will be the test for increasing the population of Fort Wayne.

Marching band places third at ISSMA State Finals

Spartan Alliance Band wraps up season in Indianapolis, prepares for winter music performance groups

BY ARIKA AKIN
Writer

While marching band season is over, music programs continue for students.

Marching band season is officially over, and their performance "Poiesis: An Act of Creation" has been put to rest. This arrangement sought to tell the story of creation, using props and emotional music.

On Nov. 7, the marching band won third in the Class A state finals for the ISSMA marching band competition. Even though the band was defeated by Avon and Carmel for the third year in a row, students are still happy about their placing.

Not winning first or second "kind of sucks," according to Thomas Berkshire (12), tuba player, "but we did the best that we could do." However, the band does not "care how (they) placed, (they) only care that (they) did well."

Students, even ones proud of their placing and how the show went overall, still acknowledge that not everything is going to go perfectly.

"Obviously there's going to be issues in any show," Allison Stevens (10), saxophone player, said. "Obviously some people are still not marching it as well, but it was still really good. Everyone was a lot better than we were at the beginning of the year."

Third place is nothing to scoff at. In a competition that pairs down over 23 class A bands from all around Indiana, any placing is something to be proud of, especially with the marching band's history.

> **"I feel relieved, it's been a long three years. I feel more relaxed, but I do know that I'm going to miss (band)."**
>
> **LUIS ORTIZ (12)**
> *Tuba Player*

The Spartan Alliance Band has qualified for Class A ISSMA state finals for 22 years in a row, and has been awarded first place five times, most recently in 2011.

"We gave it our all," Luis Ortiz (12), tuba player, said. "Everyone did everything that they were supposed to do. We all did our jobs, and we just left it all out on the field. That's really all that we can do."

ISSMA is not the only competition that the marching band has participated in this month. The band won 12th place at the Bands of America competition on Nov. 21. The band performed twice, once for semifinals and once for finals.

"It's tough competition," Stevens said. "Last year we made finals and it was amazing. It was a great experience."

Now that the season is over, students have begun to decide what to participate in next year. Anonymous Blue, the accompaniment to show choir, held auditions were on Nov. 16. Students can also participate in the pep band, jazz band or concert band.

"This is probably going to be my last chance at having a music career, so I'm trying to get a lot more involved," Ortiz said.

Now that band season is over, students revel in their increase in free time.

"I feel relieved, it's been a long three years," Ortiz said. "I feel more relaxed, but I do know that I'm going to miss (band)."

designed by kylie poling

OPINION

Pop star-themed app addictive, destructive to teens

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

Over the years, thousands of articles have been and continue to be written for print over the effect of violent video games on kids. Years of debate over the effect of violent video on players has not found a clear settlement if there is a link, but addictive games are a hidden problem as well.

I have never had an interest in video games or an infatuation with Demi Lovato. Demi Lovato: Path to Fame was the obvious choice to investigate the effect of addictive games due to the popularity of the app.

The developers behind Demi Lovato: Path to Fame are the brains behind the wildly popular Kim Kardashian: Hollywood. The games supposedly allow players to "choose their paths" as to the events in the story, but after playing the game three times over, I found the story does not change regardless of the decisions the character makes.

Every player will need to sabotage a fellow singer's career and every player will not have enough money to do anything unless if the player uses real money to buy computer clothes to impress computer people. Not to echo a helicopter parent, but the values the game teaches are not of good use. I think all I learned on a personal level is to do anything for the fame—to impress other people for value. Surely, this is a game. But the mindset the player adapts from hour after hour of "never being good enough" in this world is deteriorating, and bled over the to real life.

This game is addictive. This is a matter of self-control which differs between individuals, but I did consider on a regular basis playing the game secretly in class. I could not think about trig, the only math on my mind was how high my fan count would go if I publicly broke up with my digital boyfriend, Taylor. All that had value to me was my fake music career.

Nevertheless, a form of a real-life existential crisis hit me. Three love interests, Taylor, Alex and Sam were in arms over me, where in real life, I did not attend prom with a date. I felt special when virtual Demi Lovato would talk to me. I purposely did create my virtual best friend, whom I came to name "Fettuccine," to be ugly in order for the eyes to stay on me. Surely, my real life would never be exciting as the Demi Lovato tour.

> **"I purposely did create my virtual best friend, whom I came to name "Fettuccine," to be ugly in order for the eyes to stay on me."**

The fame did change me. When my character unlocked a popular Miami designer's "touch of plaid look," it was as if the new clothes changed my character, who in turn, changed my own character.

Demi's entourage has a malicious effect on my life in both the game and real world. I am now addicted to the limelight and drama. I listen to Demi Lovato's music and instantly go bitter and consider stealing someone else's man. These are the effects on me, an 18 year old college-bound student.

Do not take this game so seriously. If you are spending actual money to impress virtual boys, please reflect and realize you are in too deep. The best way to approach the Demi game or any other game really is to keep a distance and relax. Learn to have fun. A fun game does not make the player angry after closing the app.

LEFT and Write

Should Christmas be celebrated in the month of November?

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

Christmas is not meant to be celebrated in November. Radio stations have 24/7 holiday music playing the second the clock hits Nov. 1; however, what these people fail to realize is there are still many things that lie between them and their beloved holiday of Christmas.

Some of these things happen to be a season change, about 55 days and an entirely separate holiday, which happens to be quite important.

Every year after Christmas is over, there is a huge group of people who complain about Christmas not feeling like Christmas. A big reason for this could be that the anticipation has been built up for this one day for almost two months.

Christmas loses its feel when it is celebrated for more than the time it is in season. In this case, it could be seen as too much of a good thing. It is like buying a nice, expensive shirt.

If a person wears the shirt every day, it isn't as appealing as it would be if they waited for a special occasion. If you celebrate Christmas months ahead of time, it doesn't feel as special when it finally comes around.

In doing this, people also fail to appreciate the holiday of Thanksgiving. This holiday is important to many, and is often overlooked in the hustle and bustle of Christmas-time.

The entire second half of autumn is overlooked, to be honest. There is the initial excitement over pumpkin flavored drinks, and being able to wear sweaters and boots, but after Halloween people seem to forget all of these concepts and move straight into a holiday that hasn't even come yet.

People will often say that autumn passed by quickly, but this is because a majority of people overlook the season once Halloween is over, and get right into Christmas.

The image of Christmas usually consists of snow on the ground and in the air, cold weather, not having school, and seeing family. Possibly the reason Christmas never 'feels like Christmas,' is because people create the image of Christmas in November, and eventually they view 'Christmas-time' as the temperature dropping ten degrees and a time change.

Many Christmas decorations have a reasonable time frame as well. Calendars start on December first,

ABC Family's '25 Days of Christmas' is only twenty-five days long, and even Christmas trees only live so long before they start to die. These decorations should not be up long enough that they feel like a part of the house. They should remind the people in the house that Christmas is happening soon. Once a person stops realizing the decorations are only there for a short period of time, they lose their purpose and they lose an aspect of the Christmas feeling.

Christmas movies are also a big part of the problem. Anyone who watches Christmas movies anytime besides right around Christmas-time is ruining the Christmas feel that the movies are supposed to provide. If a person watches the Christmas classes 'Elf' in June, they are going to watch it again in December and not feel any different, which is a problem because Christmas movies are meant to get people in the spirit of the holidays.

This is why companies release Christmas-themed drinks and products only for a short period of time, and not all year round. There wouldn't be anything special about these products if they were available all year. They would not be considered holiday drinks at this point, just drinks.

Overall, Christmas has a time and place to be celebrated, and that time and place is most definitely not in November.

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

The very first day of November radio stations put up a holiday station with Christmas music all day long.

Neighborhoods and shops have already begun decorating for the upcoming holiday season.

There are people who believe it is too early to start celebrating this joyous holiday, but there are many reasons as to why we should.

Christmas is a holiday that brings people together and spreads joy throughout everyone. People enjoy this holiday and want to celebrate as soon as they can.

Just because it is not December does not mean decorations can't be brought out or Christmas music listened to.

By hearing music on the radio or seeing Christmas lights around it brings out the holiday spirit. The music played on the radio is played on a specific station made only for holiday music.

Anyone who wants to listen to it may or may not but just because others do not want to listen doesn't mean it is too early to play it. Christmas music is not only festive, but is relaxing for people to listen to.

When listening to these songs it brings over a sense of relaxation and happiness. If these songs were not categorized as "Christmas songs" then there would be no debate on the appropriate time to play them.

When it comes to Christmas movies there are millions to choose from. TV channels, such as Hallmark, have already started playing Christmas movies.

Because it is not the month of December, people criticize this and say the channel should not be playing Christmas movies this early.

Christmas movies can be categorized as any film associated with winter or some aspect of the holiday season. These movies are for pure enjoyment as are films in general.

By saying you shouldn't watch Christmas movies because it is not Christmas yet is like saying you should not watch horror movies because it is not Halloween.

Christmas movies also build up the excitement for the holiday to come which raises the spirit of people.

As stated before, malls have also begun decorating their stores for the holidays. Since multiple people visit a mall daily, these decorations are suppose to remind shoppers of the upcoming holiday.

People who are out shopping could have motivation to begin Christmas shopping, or just admire the decorations.

This is a much anticipated holiday that many people worldwide look forward too so seeing decorations a four-five weeks early is no issue. You can appreciate the decorations longer than if no one started putting them up until only about 2 weeks before.

Christmas is always associated with snow and cold temperature. As this is true in most cases, Mother Nature does not always work that way. The end of October and into November is when there is a change in the weather. This stimulates the excitement for winter and the holiday that follows: Christmas. People argue that since there may not be snow yet, it is not Christmas season. That should not make a difference because some years it snows as early as October and others as late as January. Everyone says that it is not Christmas without snow but in reality snow or not it is still Christmas season.

Christmas is one of the most popular holidays and is anticipated for all year by millions of people. To start playing Christmas music, putting up decorations or even watching holiday movies just a few weeks early is not a problem. Holiday celebrations, no longer the time, not only brightens people's spirits but also gets everyone excited for the upcoming festivities.

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
TESSA VIRGILIO

COPY EDITOR
ETHAN ZWEIG

ONLINE EDITORS
Mallory McCauley
Adam Swiatkowski

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

ADVISER
Teresa Nowak

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl
Willow Pierce

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

PHOTOGRAPHER
Pawandeep Bola

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a montly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

NEWS

BRIEFS

Students who took the PSAT in Oct. will receive test results by mid-Dec. in Advisory.

Austin Render (12) and Kolin Davis (12) each placed first at the Terri Hemmert High School Student Radio & Audio Awards at the High School and College Radio Conference at Columbia College Chicago on Oct. 17.

Jan. 21 will be a designated snow make up day.

SACS Special Education Parent Group will meet Jan. 29 in the district transportation room at 12:30 p.m. All community members are invited.

Semi-Formal will be held in the cafeteria Dec. 19 at 7:00 p.m. Guest forms must be turned in to the discipline office by Dec. 9. Tickets are available at all lunches for $15.

Kylie Poling (12) received a Super Rating in Sports Writing at the National High School Journalism Convention.

Student Services office will close at 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 18 until 7:00 a.m. on Jan. 4. Parchment transcript requests must be filed before 1:00 p.m. Dec. 18 to meet Jan. 1 deadlines.

DEBUNKED: TUNNELS?

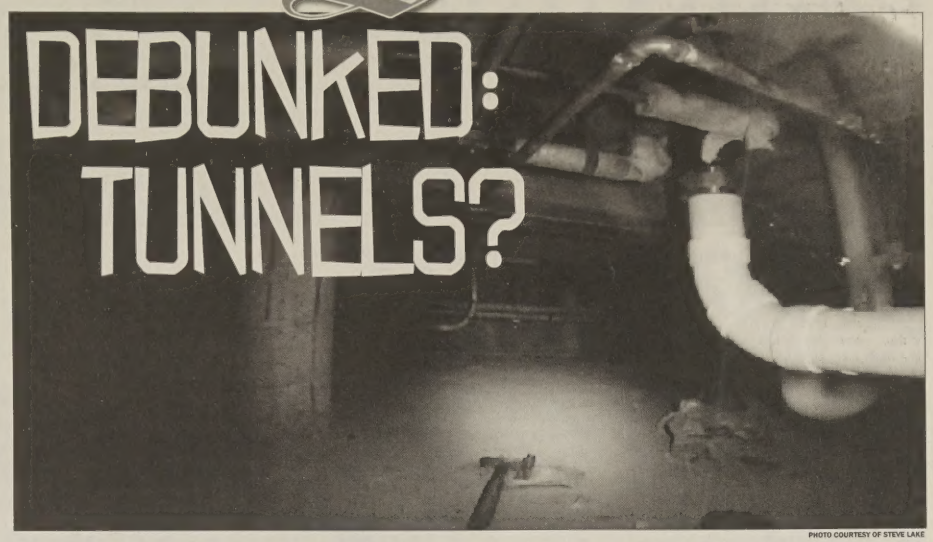


PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE LAKE

Steve Lake, assistant principal, investigates the tunnels with a GoPro, encountering surprises including writing on the wall and a baby doll.

Myth:
There are several tunnels underneath the school.

Status:
True!

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Down the hallway towards the 500s wing, there is a door with a sign that says "Tunnel Access." There is also a similar door near the 700s wing.

Many have speculated what lies beyond these doors, but inside both doors open into simple janitor closets and some pipework. However, recently uncovered, there is a panel beneath the pipes that lead to tunnels that connect the two closets.

The special education sector, in addition to few other classrooms, used to be an elementary school during the 1960s while the rest of the high school was being built around it.

The tunnels were originally in place in case of rocket fire from around the globe, but once the high school was finished, the elementary school moved to Aboite, and the tunnels were retired since they could no longer protect the entire student body.

Some may have noticed how the tiles in the 700s wing are a different color, older and duller.

If one follows these tiles, they lead through the special education hallway, through the TV studio (even though that area is carpeted), and back into the 500s wing by the cafeteria before connecting up to the other tunnel door.

The tunnels lie directly beneath all of these old tiles. The reason there are ramps from the main hallway to those classrooms is so students walk over the tunnels.

Last month, in order to help with the investigation regarding the tunnels, Steve Lake, assistant principal, obtained permits and safety gear and dove with a GoPro into the tunnels.

He returned safely an hour later with footage of what he found down there, including pipeworks, graffiti and a baby doll. These videos can be seen now on hhsspartana.com.

Do you have a rumor to disprove or a myth to debunk? Send any suspicious leads to thespartana@gmail.com with a subject line "POSSIBLE DEBUNKED", and your questions might be answered next issue.

City readies for Holidayfest among improvement plans

Fort Wayne looking for greater appeal among young crowds through beautification and more dining options

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-in-Chief

In an effort to increase its relevancy amongst younger generations at risk for moving out of the Fort Wayne area, the city has proposed a horde of long-term renovations.

Among these renovations includes an improved arts district, a waterfront boardwalk and surrounding area built along the city's rivers, and a dining district along the proposed boardwalk.

While these improvements will be years in the making, the city has revamped its holiday festivities for the current winter season. At the Festival of Gingerbread, architects used gingerbread as a medium to display to visitors what the downtown district may look like once complete.

Existing businesses are participating in the city's ploys to attract more visitors downtown as well. The Downtown Holiday Window Decorating Contest, sponsored by Downtown Fort Wayne, opened voting on Nov. 25, the same day as the Night of Lights, which saw the lighting of Christmas lights along various buildings throughout the city.

The Festival of Trees closed Dec. 2 with a community sing-along at the Embassy Theatre led by the Fort Wayne Children's Choir, directed by Jonathan Busarow. The Fort Wayne Ballet has contributed to the holiday cheer with its annual performance of The Nutcracker.

The Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society will once again host a Santa Claus train, allowing children a chance to ride in an old caboose car with their beloved holiday character. 3,500 tickets were sold within 24 hours, bringing up interesting prospectives for the Railroad Historical Society in the future. The society has proposed to allow a 765 engine to pull passenger cars throughout the area.

Improvement ideas have abounded in the past year; however, these ideas have a renewed relevancy with the city's determination to attract more visitors and potential immigrants. Holiday attractions bring the visitors, but the long-lasting improvements will be the test for increasing the population of Fort Wayne.

Marching band places third at ISSMA State Finals

Spartan Alliance Band wraps up season in Indianapolis, prepares for winter music performance groups

BY ARIKA AKIN
Writer

While marching band season is over, music programs continue for students.

Marching band season is officially over, and their performance "Poiesis: An Act of Creation" has been put to rest. This arrangement sought to tell the story of creation, using props and emotional music.

On Nov. 7, the marching band won third in the Class A state finals for the ISSMA marching band competition. Even though the band was defeated by Avon and Carmel for the third year in a row, students are still happy about their placing.

Not winning first or second "kind of sucks," according to Thomas Berkshire (12), tuba player, "but we did the best that we could do." However, the band does not "care how (they) placed, (they) only care that (they) did well."

Students, even ones proud of their placing and how the show went overall, still acknowledge that not everything is going to go perfectly.

"Obviously there's going to be issues in any show," Allison Stevens (10), saxophone player, said. "Obviously some people are still not marching it as well, but it was still really good. Everyone was a lot better than we were at the beginning of the year."

Third place is nothing to scoff at. In a competition that pairs down over 23 class A bands from all around Indiana, any placing is something to be proud of, especially with the marching band's history.

The Spartan Alliance Band has qualified for Class A ISSMA state finals for 22 years in a row, and has been awarded first place five times, most recently in 2011.

"I feel relieved, it's been a long three years. I feel more relaxed, but I do know that I'm going to miss (band)."
LUIS ORTIZ (12)
Tuba Player

"We gave it our all," Luis Ortiz (12), tuba player, said. "Everyone did everything that they were supposed to do. We all did our jobs, and we just left it all out on the field. That's really all that we can do."

ISSMA is not the only competition that the marching band has participated in this month. The band won 12th place at the Bands of America competition on Nov. 21. The band performed twice, once for semifinals and once for finals.

"It's tough competition," Stevens said. "Last year we made finals and it was amazing. It was a great experience."

Now that the season is over, students have begun to decide what to participate in next year. Anonymous Blue, the accompaniment to show choir, held auditions were on Nov. 16. Students can also participate in the pep band, jazz band or concert band.

"This is probably going to be my last chance at having a music career, so I'm trying to get a lot more involved," Ortiz said.

Now that band season is over, students revel in their increase in free time.

"I feel relieved, it's been a long three years," Ortiz said. "I feel more relaxed, but I do know that I'm going to miss (band)."

OPINION

Pop star-themed app addictive, destructive to teens

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

Over the years, thousands of articles have been and continue to be written for print over the effect of violent video games on kids. Years of debate over the effect of violent video on players has not found a clear settlement if there is a link, but addictive games are a hidden problem as well.

I have never had an interest in video games or an infatuation with Demi Lovato. Demi Lovato: Path to Fame was the obvious choice to investigate the effect of addictive games due to the popularity of the app.

The developers behind Demi Lovato: Path to Fame are the brains behind the wildly popular Kim Kardashian: Hollywood. The games supposedly allow players to "choose their paths" as to the events in the story, but after playing the game three times over, I found the story does not change regardless of the decisions the character makes.

Every player will need to sabotage a fellow singer's career and every player will not have enough money to do anything unless if the player uses real money to buy computer clothes to impress computer people. Not to echo a helicopter parent, but the values the game teaches are not of good use. I think all I learned on a personal level is to do anything for the fame—to impress other people for value. Surely, this is a game. But the mindset the player adapts from hour after hour of "never being good enough" in this world is deteriorating, and bled over the to real life.

This game is addictive. This is a matter of self-control which differs between individuals, but I did consider on a regular basis playing the game secretly in class. I could not think about trig, the only math on my mind was how high my fan count would go if I publicly broke up with my digital boyfriend, Taylor. All that had value to me was my fake music career.

Nevertheless, a form of a real-life existential crisis hit me. Three love interests, Taylor, Alex and Sam were in arms over me, where in real life, I did not attend prom with a date. I felt special when virtual Demi Lovato would talk to me. I purposely did create my virtual best friend, whom I came to name "Fettuccine," to be ugly in order for the eyes to stay on me. Surely, my real life would never be exciting as the Demi Lovato tour.

"I purposely did create my virtual best friend, whom I came to name "Fettuccine," to be ugly in order for the eyes to stay on me."

The fame did change me. When my character unlocked a popular Miami designer's "touch of plaid look," it was as if the new clothes changed my character, who in turn, changed my own character.

Demi's entourage has a malicious effect on my life in both the game and real world. I am now addicted to the limelight and drama. I listen to Demi Lovato's music and instantly go bitter and consider stealing someone else's man. These are the effects on me, an 18 year old college-bound student.

Do not take this game so seriously. If you are spending actual money to impress virtual boys, please reflect and realize you are in too deep. The best way to approach the Demi game or any other game really is to keep a distance and relax. Learn to have fun. A fun game does not make the player angry after closing the app.

LEFT and Write

Should Christmas be celebrated in the month of November?

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

Christmas is not meant to be celebrated in November. Radio stations have 24/7 holiday music playing the second the clock hits Nov. 1; however, what these people fail to realize is there are still many things that lie between them and their beloved holiday of Christmas.

Some of these things happen to be a season change, about 55 days and an entirely separate holiday, which happens to be quite important.

Every year after Christmas is over, there is a huge group of people who complain about Christmas not feeling like Christmas. A big reason for this could be that the anticipation has been built up for this one day for almost two months.

Christmas loses its feel when it is celebrated for more than the time it is in season. In this case, it could be seen as too much of a good thing. It is like buying a nice, expensive shirt.

If a person wears the shirt every day, it isn't as appealing as it would be if they waited for a special occasion. If you celebrate Christmas months ahead of time, it doesn't feel as special when it finally comes around.

In doing this, people also fail to appreciate the holiday of Thanksgiving. This holiday is important to many, and is often overlooked in the hustle and bustle of Christmas-time.

The entire second half of autumn is overlooked, to be honest. There is the initial excitement over pumpkin flavored drinks, and being able to wear sweaters and boots, but after Halloween people seem to forget all of these concepts and move straight into a holiday that hasn't even come yet.

People will often say that autumn passed by quickly, but this is because a majority of people overlook the season once Halloween is over, and get right into Christmas.

The image of Christmas usually consists of snow on the ground and in the air, cold weather, not having school, and seeing family. Possibly the reason Christmas never 'feels like Christmas,' is because people create the image of Christmas in November, and eventually they view 'Christmas-time' as the temperature dropping ten degrees and a time change.

Many Christmas decorations have a reasonable time frame as well. Calendars start on December first,

ABC Family's '25 Days of Christmas' is only twenty-five days long, and even Christmas trees only live so long before they start to die. These decorations should not be up long enough that they feel like a part of the house. They should remind the people in the house that Christmas is happening soon. Once a person stops realizing the decorations are only there for a short period of time, they lose their purpose and they lose an aspect of the Christmas feeling.

Christmas movies are also a big part of the problem. Anyone who watches Christmas movies anytime besides right around Christmas-time is ruining the Christmas feel that the movies are supposed to provide. If a person watches the Christmas classes 'Elf' in June, they are going to watch it again in December and not feel any different, which is a problem because Christmas movies are meant to get people in the spirit of the holidays.

This is why companies release Christmas-themed drinks and products only for a short period of time, and not all year round. There wouldn't be anything special about these products if they were available all year. They would not be considered holiday drinks at this point, just drinks.

Overall, Christmas has a time and place to be celebrated, and that time and place is most definitely not in November.

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

The very first day of November radio stations put up a holiday station with Christmas music all day long.

Neighborhoods and shops have already begun decorating for the upcoming holiday season.

There are people who believe it is too early to start celebrating this joyous holiday, but there are many reasons as to why we should.

Christmas is a holiday that brings people together and spreads joy throughout everyone. People enjoy this holiday and want to celebrate as soon as they can.

Just because it is not December does not mean decorations can't be brought out or Christmas music listened to.

By hearing music on the radio or seeing Christmas lights around it brings out the holiday spirit. The music played on the radio is played on a specific station made only for holiday music.

Anyone who wants to listen to it may or may not but just because others do not want to listen doesn't mean it is too early to play it. Christmas music is not only festive, but is relaxing for people to listen to.

When listening to these songs it brings over a sense of relaxation and happiness. If these songs were not categorized as "Christmas songs" then there would be no debate on the appropriate time to play them.

When it comes to Christmas movies there are millions to choose from. TV channels, such as Hallmark, have already started playing Christmas movies.

Because it is not the month of December, people criticize this and say the channel should not be playing Christmas movies this early.

Christmas movies can be categorized as any film associated with winter or some aspect of the holiday season. These movies are for pure enjoyment as are films in general.

By saying you shouldn't watch Christmas movies because it is not Christmas yet is like saying you should not watch horror movies because it is not Halloween.

Christmas movies also build up the excitement for the holiday to come which raises the spirit of people.

As stated before, malls have also begun decorating their stores for the holidays. Since multiple people visit a mall daily, these decorations are suppose to remind shoppers of the upcoming holiday.

People who are out shopping could have motivation to begin Christmas shopping, or just admire the decorations.

This is a much anticipated holiday that many people worldwide look forward too so seeing decorations a four-five weeks early is no issue. You can appreciate the decorations longer than if no one started putting them up until only about 2 weeks before.

Christmas is always associated with snow and cold temperature. As this is true in most cases, Mother Nature does not always work that way. The end of October and into November is when there is a change in the weather. This stimulates the excitement for winter and the holiday that follows: Christmas. People argue that since there may not be snow yet, it is not Christmas season. That should not make a difference because some years it snows as early as October and others as late as January. Everyone says that it is not Christmas without snow but in reality snow or not it is still Christmas season.

Christmas is one of the most popular holidays and is anticipated for all year by millions of people. To start playing Christmas music, putting up decorations or even watching holiday movies just a few weeks early is not a problem. Holiday celebrations, no longer the time, not only brightens people's spirits but also gets everyone excited for the upcoming festivities.

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
TESSA VIRGILIO

COPY EDITOR
ETHAN ZWEIG

ONLINE EDITORS
Mallory McCauley
Adam Swiatkowski

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

ADVISER
Teresa Nowak

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl
Willow Pierce

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

PHOTOGRAPHER
Pawandeep Bola

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a montly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

designed by awbrei vachon

LIFE

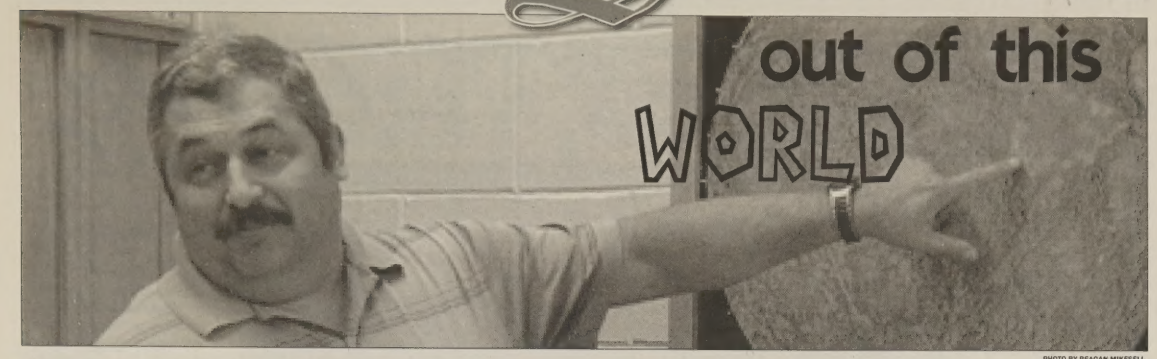


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Astronomy class debuts with 18 students as advanced Earth Space Science course in science department

BY EMMA LEININGER
Writer

The new astronomy class has sparked the interest of many students who might pursue a career in the study of the physical universe, and also many students who are simply intrigued by the vast outer space.

Robert Steverson, astronomy teacher, was inspired to create the astronomy class by his love of physics and astronomy which he can trace back even to college.

"The interesting thing about astronomy is that it's a changing science," Steverson said, "The things that 20 years ago were thought to be (true) are now accepted as facts. It's constantly growing and changing, so I think it's a good opportunity for students to see how science can progress."

Currently the class is only offered during fifth period and is composed of 18 students.

"It's just a good opportunity to take another science class that's going to get me extra knowledge before I go into college, and Steverson lays the class out like a college class," Ethan Yde (12) said.

As a fifth period class, Steverson is able to go in depth with his students, answer questions and give them time to work on important projects.

"The class is more focused around projects, research and small group assignments," Steverson said. "Really it's trying to understand the universe and the things that are occurring and cutting edge that are a little more difficult to go into in Earth Space It's laying a foundation, trying to get the students interested and engaging in the science, not just learning about it."

Steverson's students find his teaching styles entertaining and educational and hold him in high regard.

"Mr. Steverson is one of the smartest people that I've ever met," Lauren Rapsen (12) said, "He really knows what he's talking about, he's really interested in what he teaches, he really has this passion for teaching and learning and getting involved with the students. That's very admirable in a person."

> **"The interesting thing about astronomy is that it's a changing science...It's constantly growing and changing."**
>
> **ROBERT STEVERSON**
> *Teacher*

Both in the winter and in the spring, students have the option to go on a field trip to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago.

"The Chicago trip is an opportunity to go to probably one of the premiere planetariums in the country," Steverson said.

The students will not only be able to see a night show in the planetarium, but also the museum which offers models which represents the relative sizes of planets, space suits and even possibly a capsule used in the space program. This will help show the students the topics they have discussed in class in a real life setting.

Earth Space is a prerequisite to the astronomy class, but where the majority of Earth Space focused on the physical Earth rather than the astronomical aspects, this new astronomy class goes more in depth and hands dealing with the celestial portion of Earth Space.

"One of the things that helps with understanding astronomy is understanding the Earth." Steverson said, "It gives something to compare it to, because you've got to be able to have a frame of reference and that's what Earth Space does."

The class is applicable to all graduation programs and is considered an advanced science course. Students do research and write papers to familiarize themselves with work they may be doing in college.

Steverson recommends the class to anyone who has an interest in astronomy and the skies. Although the course is a first year class, it is gaining interest very quickly and appears to be off to a very strong start.

PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

The Allen County SPCA shelter takes in abandoned cats and dogs, prepares them for forever-homes

BY AWBREI VACHON
Section Editor

During the first week of November, people all over the country celebrate National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week, and the animal lovers of Fort Wayne were no exception. The Allen County Society for Prevention Against Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) takes care of the city's homeless cats and dogs and prepares them for the life they will live following their adoption. Although Shelter Appreciation Week takes place once a year, shelters work year round to ensure their four-legged friends are attended to with love while they wait for a family.

"I think that it's important that every community recognize the important role that they're local animal shelter plays in their community's overall health and wellbeing,"

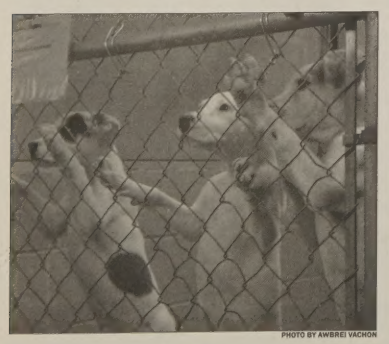


PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

The animals of the SPCA live in either the kennels or the cat colonies in the shelter. Three big yards in the back of the building provide play time, exercise and training for the dogs living in the shelter.

Jessica Henry, Allen County SPCA director, said. "Animal shelters keep stray animals from running on the streets, we vaccinate animals and adoptable pets and we're a source of information, comfort and services for the community at large."

In any typical week, the employees and volunteers perform tasks around the shelter to ensure the health, safety and happiness of every the animal there.

"At any given time, we have about 100 animals in the building, usually about 25 dogs, and the rest, cats, so there's significant amount of effort put into cleaning up after the animals, cleaning the animals themselves, feeding the animals (and) enriching the animals experience here," Henry said.

The SPCA is not a municipal animal organization, as opposed to Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control, which is run by the city of Fort Wayne. So to accomplish most of these tasks, the shelter relies on donations from others.

"The reason that donations are so important is because the better funded we are, the more lengths we're able to go to for animals in need," Henry said. "For example, we treat heartworm here when a dog tests positive for heartworm, and that can cost up to 1000 dollars for that one dog. So the more people donate to us, the more of those animals we can help. We can also have better enrichment programming for the animals here if they need new toys or if we want to put in new apparatus in the cat colonies."

In addition to caring for the pets, the shelter also tries to reach out to outsiders as well.

"(We) ran a free vaccine clinic where people could come here out through the garage (and) we had vets that volunteered their time that would vaccinate these animals," Dawn LaPorte, Allen County SPCA business manager, said. "They would be microchipped, they would get flea treatment, they would get some food, different things that we had going on, and a lot of these animals have never even been to a vet before,"

Another way the SPCA helps outsiders is through a program referred to as Compassion Fostering, which the shelter recently started participating in. Compassion Fostering is a way for the shelter to help individuals in unfortunate situations care for their pets.

Approximately half of all the animals coming into the shelter are transferred from the Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control, and pets from owner surrenders and other animal shelters make up the other half. Animal Care and Control has an open admission facility, which basically means it will take nearly any animal in, but unfortunately, the downside is typically once it reaches maximum capacity, animals must be euthanized, or put down, in order to make room for incoming animals. The SPCA, on the other hand, has a limited admission facility, meaning if there is not any room for another pet, the shelter will turn people away until it can accommodate more pets. In order to save as many animals as possible from being euthanized, the SPCA takes in pets from Animal Care and Control.

When these pets come into the shelter, they all go through the same general process before they are incorporated into the SPCA family. This includes a bath, testing, vaccination, any necessary treatment, spay or neuter surgery and finally, they are put up for adoption.

"We always want people to look here first before they consider purchasing an animal because there are a lot of wonderful dogs of all breeds and all ages, same thing for cats, who are looking for their forever homes and waiting on people to come find them," Henry said. "When somebody adopts an animal instead of purchasing one from a breeder or a pet store, you save two lives: you save the life of the animal that you're taking home that day, plus it makes space for us to go to animal control and bring in another animal."

One student in particular from the school, Kate Graney (12), has adopted a pet from the Allen County SPCA.

"My dog died the beginning of my junior year, and we were lonely, so we went to the SPCA to get a cat," Graney said. "There was like three rooms full of cats, and they let us play with the cats for a little while and decide which one we wanted."

Although the shelter invests a lot of time caring for the animals inside the building, the ultimate goal is to get the animals out of the shelter and into a new home. Volunteers such as Louise Yahne, former first grade teacher at Fairfield Elementary, puts together Go Home bags for the families who adopt a pet, which includes helpful information as well as treats and toys.

"My goal for every animal when it comes in here is that the experience is similar to they're going to a daycare, it's just a different family's going to pick them up than the one who dropped them off," Henry said. "I want it to be a positive experience for them, I want them to be in a clean environment, I want them to feel love, I want them to feel healthy, I want them to know joy and I want them to find their forever-homes with families who will commit to them for the rest of their lives."

A blast from the past: 90s kid childhood defined

List of prominent TV shows, movies and more from the late 90s to early 2000s

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

Before too long, generations will have no recollection of the things that defined our childhood as traditional "90's Kids." All of the many trademarks of the 90s and early 2000s will cease to have any relevance to these upcoming generations. This year in high school, students born in the year 2001 are finally roaming the hallways, and within the next couple years, there will no longer be a graduating class consisting of students born in the 1990s. Basically someday we're going to be those cool old-timers that people will say to us, "no way you were born in the 1900s?" We're going to feel like ancient artifacts from a completely different century--in a good way, of course.

As kids born in the 90s, typically the first thing that comes to our mind isn't fashion or historical events, but rather, when we think of the of those precious adolescent years, what sticks out to us the most is the popular TV shows and movies, emerging video consoles and corresponding games and awesome toys, among other things.

The following is a detailed list describing the most prominent highlights of our childhood, starting with TV shows and movies.

-**Franklin the Turtle**: Quite appropriately, we'll start out with some of the TV shows intended for younger audiences and work our way up. Franklin was a TV show about a (pretty funny looking) turtle with a little red handkerchief around his neck and a matching red hat, who embarked on adventures with his best friends (one of which was a bear literally named Bear), like riding scooters and overcoming his fear small, dark places (like the inside of his shell).

-**Little Bear**: Similarly, Little Bear, if you don't remember, was a cartoon about a young bear and all his furry friends, including a duck, a hen, an owl and a cat, as well as a girl named Emily (obviously not as fury).

-**Dragon Tales**: This one was a little more popular than the three aforementioned shows; a brother and sister travel to this cool dragon world that pretty much all of us were incredibly jealous about.

-**Scooby Doo: Zoinks!**: Venturing towards a slightly more mature audience, Scooby Doo and his gang were awesome. Enough said.

-**Courage the Cowardly Dog**: Keeping a steady dog theme, Courage the Cowardly Dog was weird; it was terrifying. For some reason, though, watching it gave you a sense of pride and, oddly enough, courage, because of how freaky the show was.

-**The Grim Adventure of Billy and Mandy**: The title doesn't like, this show was pretty grim. I mean, the Grim Reaper was literally one of the main characters. How much more grim does it get? It was a very odd show, if I might add.

-**Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends**: Characters like Bloo, Coco and Mac and Cheese really made this a memorable show.

-**Teen Titans**: Not to be mistaken with Teen Titans Go, also known as the newer and not improved version of the one from the early 2000s. Why do they do such terrible things to cartoons nowadays?

-**Danny Phantom**: This show was definitely one of the best shows we had as kids. He was just 14 when his parents built a very strange machine...his molecules got all rearranged...he had snowy white hair, and glowing green eyes...he had to stop all the ghosts that were coming through, you get the gist.

-**Spongebob Squarepants**: What is childhood without Spongebob and Patrick? Nonexistent, that's what. Spongebob was so good the producers had no choice but keep on airing it. Now that is what I call a true legend.

-**The Fairly Oddparents**: Dinkleberg! This show revolutionized our hopes and dreams, hands down. I don't think anyone of us didn't hope that we would somehow be blessed with fairy godparents.

-**The Amanda Show**: This may have been one of the weirdest shows out there. With that being said, court dismissed; bring in the dancing lobsters.

-**Drake and Josh**: Words cannot even begin to explain our universal love and admiration for Drake and Josh, so in lieu of a description, let's all just have a moment of silence to remember this one. Feel free to grab a tissue to wipe away any stray tears if you would like.

-**The Suite Life of Zack and Cody**: There is no doubt these two trouble makers kick-started millions of kids' dreams nation-wide of living in a big hotel and luggage-bag-cart-surfing down the long hallways, terrorizing guests in the process. I don't think there is a single person in the world who didn't like that show.

-**The Harry Potter movies:** I know not everyone was a Harry Potter fan, but all throughout our childhood, there was always a new Harry Potter movie coming out. Going to see the new Harry Potter was one of the most thrilling movie-going experiences out there. During that last movie, watching Harry, Ron and Hermione hurl their kids off into the brick walls, that was the end of our childhood. Never again would we await the release of the next Harry Potter movie.

Now venturing away towards animation and motion picture, here are some miscellaneous objects which all of us 90s kids can relate to.

-**Constantly having to sharpen your pencil to the point where it was basically a weapon**: We didn't have mechanical pencils for quite a while in school, thus, we had the excuse of needing to sharpen our pencil the second it became a little dull. Number two's were our number one (by default).

-**Overhead Projectors**: These bad boys dominated class time lessons. Some teachers had the ones where they simply just placed the transparency on top of the the overhead, but others had the ones where the transparency was like four feet long and the teacher would just crank the little handle and the transparency would scroll up or down.

-**Tamagotchi pets**: I personally cannot vouch for the splendors of owning a Tamagotchi pet, but I do know they were pretty popular and I was always jealous I didn't have one.

-**GameCube**: The GameCube wasn't the only game console during its time, but it was unique in the fact that XBox and PlayStation both lived to see the following generations. The GameCube sadly didn't prosper the way its competitors did, but it sure provided us with technological fun.

-**Easy Bake Oven**: They probably have way better versions of the Easy Bake Oven today, but that doesn't change how exciting it was to mix the ingredients together, pour the batter into the hockey-puck-shaped tray and place it in the little slot underneath the light bulb for what felt like a whole day until it was finally ready.

-**Light Bright**: This box had holes all on the top of it and it came with a bunch of tiny, colorful little pegs. Typically there were different patterns you follow to create the different masterpieces of your dreams.

-**Cursive**: Cursive is hard, and the majority of teenagers today most likely still struggle with it, but I think there is a great deal of satisfaction that comes with being able to write a complete sentence in cursive, knowing full well that even though it doesn't look as good as grandma's, it's still pretty fancy.

So, as we all run home and try to obtain as many copies of cherished TV shows and movies that will eventually be lost to the world, so we can both binge watch them in our free time as well as force our kids to sit down and watch them someday instead of whatever popular junk that will surface during their time (because let's face it, most kid shows today already severely lack quality, and it's probably safe to say television is headed in a downward spiral, and it's everyone else down with it).

Moral of the story, never grow up. Always express that inner 90s kid of yours.

OR

Before too long, generations will have no recollection of the things that defined our childhood as traditional "90s Kids." All of the many trademarks of the 90s and early 2000s will cease to have any relevance to these upcoming generations. This year in high school, students born in the year 2001 are finally roaming the hallways, and within the next couple years, there will no longer be a graduating class consisting of students born in the 1990s. Basically someday we're going to be those cool old-timers that people will say to us, "no way you were born in the 1900s?" We're going to feel like ancient artifacts from a completely different century--in a good way, of course.

As kids born in the 90s, typically the first thing that comes to our mind isn't fashion or historical events, but rather, when we think of the of those precious adolescent years, what sticks out to us the most is the popular TV shows and cartoons of the time.

The following is an extensive list of the most prominent TV shows of our childhood.

Scooby-Doo, Where are You!	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Kim Possible	Avatar	Little Bear
The Flintstones	The Road Runner	Ed, Edd n Eddy	Pokémon	Winnie the Pooh
The Jetsons	Pink Panther	Ben 10	Recess	Dragon Tales
Johnny Bravo	The Yogi Bear Show	The Powerpuff Girls	Gargoyles	Sagwa
Samurai Jack	Camp Lazlo	Pinky and the Brain	Rolie Polie Olie	Lilo & Stitch
Dexter's Laboratory	The Smurfs	Catdog	PB&J Otter	Chalkzone
Arthur	Foster's Home for Imaginary	Teen Titans	The Proud Family	The Little Mermaid
Hey Arnold	Friends	Courage the Cowardly Dog	Rugrats	Aladdin
Johnny Quest	Kid Next Door	Life as a Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	Lloyd in Space
Cow and Chicken	Popeye the Sailor	The Snorks	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Bear in the Big Blue House
My Gym Partner's a Monkey	The Jetsons	Krypto the Superdog	Rocket Power	Barney
I am Weasel	Wacky Races	Tom and Jerry	Franklin	The Emperor's New Groove

Wright's drawing to be featured on cover of Glo Magazine

Senior's colored pencil rendering will be on cover of May issue of local magazine

Since starting her first year at Homestead this year as a senior, Emily Wright has toned her artistic skills with the hope of pursuing an art-related career that incorporates this talent. While sitting in her government glass earlier this month, she was informed that her drawing would be on the cover of the May issue of Glo magazine.

Spartana: How long have you been drawing?

Wright: I have been drawing ever since I can remember. It's something I've always done, even when I was little, even when I wasn't that good at it

Spartana: What would your past self from when you first started drawing think of you having one of your pieces appear on the cover of a magazine?

Wright: I probably would have never thought I would be good enough to have my drawing on the cover of anything. Honestly, I have improved so much within the years.

Spartana: How did the magazine find your art?

Wright: A while back... about two years ago, I drew a picture pretty similar to the one that's going to be on the cover, and my mom was like, "You really need to enter in some of your stuff for Glo Magazine... it's a free, local magazine and they do similar stuff."

I just kind of blew it off and never really got to it, but after I drew (the improved piece), I was like, "You know what, I think I'll try it." And I talked to my art teacher (Sarah Jones, art teacher) and she actually knows the person in charge (of the submissions), so my art teacher emailed her and she emailed us back about a week later and (30 minutes afterwards) she emailed us again and said she was so excited about (the drawing) that she told the (magazine) board about it and they discussed it and it's going to be on the cover of the May issue.

My art teacher actually called me while I was in Government to tell me (about the second email). I thought I was in trouble or something because my teacher was like, "You have a phone call." But it was so exciting.

Spartana: Can you share a bit about your experience of creating the drawing?

Wright: (In art class), we were actually doing aesthetic poetry, which is where you find a poem or a quote and you kind of draw a picture for it. And mine was (the poem) "There's No Cosmetic For Happiness" and so I thought that (the drawing I created) would represent it.

Spartana: How long did it take to finish your drawing?

Wright: It probably took about 20 hours, but it was pread out over a week.

Spartana: What are some other pieces you've created?

Wright: A lot of my artwork I actually give away... Once I get done drawing it, the purpose for it is kind of lost; I feel like someone else would have a better use for it.

But (for one of my pieces) I needed to draw a self portrait for my portfolio so one of my drawings is a series of me sneezing because as I was taking the reference pictures of my face, I sneezed, so I used those three pictures of me sneezing for my self portrait.

Spartana: Are you planning to incorporate art in your future career?

Wright: Yes; if you had asked me a year ago I would have said no, but after seeing, and I'm not trying to sound cocky, but after seeing that I am good enough, I am definitely going to take advantage of that opportunity.

I'm applying for (art) scholarships at a couple colleges. I think it would be cool to be an illustrator or incorporate it with business somehow, like in advertising.

Spartana: What advice would you give to younger artists?

Wright: I would just draw as many things as possible, all the time.

Spartana: What are your artistic goals?

Drawing: "There's No Cosmetic for Happiness."
PHOTO TAKEN BY: REAGAN MIKESELL

Wright: I want to find a purpose for my art. I've actually started a plan... I thought about what a difference I could make with art and I think it would be cool to draw a bunch of fanart and sell it and donate the money to McKenzie's Hope (which is an organization) for abused children because I had a past of abuse and... I went to McKenzie's Hope.

I think it would be good to try to make a difference and use my talent for the good.

--Michal Spanjer

designed by awbrei vachon

LIFE

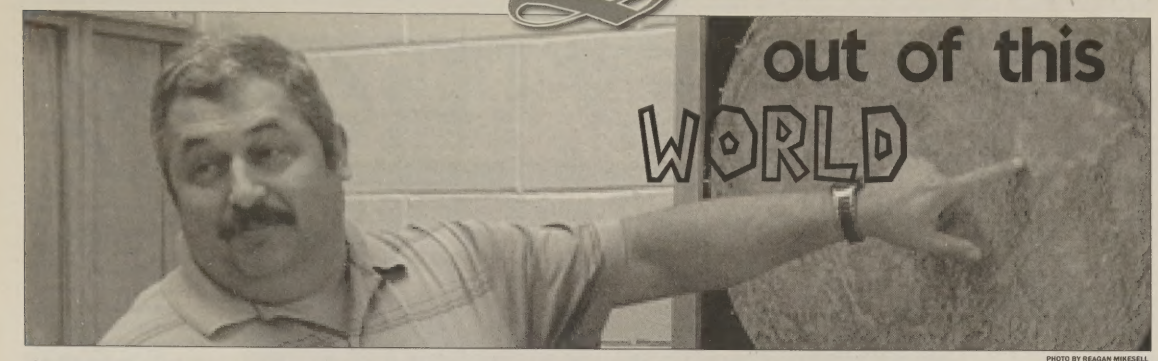


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Astronomy class debuts with 18 students as advanced Earth Space Science course in science department

BY EMMA LEININGER
Writer

The new astronomy class has sparked the interest of many students who might pursue a career in the study of the physical universe, and also many students who are simply intrigued by the vast outer space.

Robert Steverson, astronomy teacher, was inspired to create the astronomy class by his love of physics and astronomy which he can trace back even to college.

"The interesting thing about astronomy is that it's a changing science," Steverson said, "The things that 20 years ago were thought to be (true) are now accepted as facts. It's constantly growing and changing, so I think it's a good opportunity for students to see how science can progress."

Currently the class is only offered during fifth period and is composed of 18 students.

"It's just a good opportunity to take another science class that's going to get me extra knowledge before I go into college, and Steverson lays the class out like a college class," Ethan Yde (12) said.

As a fifth period class, Steverson is able to go in depth with his students, answer questions and give them time to work on important projects.

"The class is more focused around projects, research and small group assignments," Steverson said. "Really it's trying to understand the universe and the things that are occurring and cutting edge that are a little more difficult to go into in Earth Space It's laying a foundation, trying to get the students interested and engaging in the science, not just learning about it."

Steverson's students find his teaching styles entertaining and educational and hold him in high regard.

"Mr. Steverson is one of the smartest people that I've ever met," Lauren Rapsen (12) said, "He really knows what he's talking about, he's really interested in what he teaches, he really has this passion for teaching and learning and getting involved with the students. That's very admirable in a person."

> "The interesting thing about astronomy is that it's a changing science...It's constantly growing and changing."
>
> **ROBERT STEVERSON**
> *Teacher*

Both in the winter and in the spring, students have the option to go on a field trip to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago.

"The Chicago trip is an opportunity to go to probably one of the premiere planetariums in the country," Steverson said.

The students will not only be able to see a night show in the planetarium, but also the museum which offers models which represents the relative sizes of planets, space suits and even possibly a capsule used in the space program. This will help show the students the topics they have discussed in class in a real life setting.

Earth Space is a prerequisite to the astronomy class, but where the majority of Earth Space focused on the physical Earth rather than the astronomical aspects, this new astronomy class goes more in depth and hands dealing with the celestial portion of Earth Space.

"One of the things that helps with understanding astronomy is understanding the Earth." Steverson said, "It gives something to compare it to, because you've got to be able to have a frame of reference and that's what Earth Space does."

The class is applicable to all graduation programs and is considered an advanced science course. Students do research and write papers to familiarize themselves with work they may be doing in college.

Steverson recommends the class to anyone who has an interest in astronomy and the skies. Although the course is a first year class, it is gaining interest very quickly and appears to be off to a very strong start.

PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

The Allen County SPCA shelter takes in abandoned cats and dogs, prepares them for forever-homes

BY AWBREI VACHON
Section Editor

During the first week of November, people all over the country celebrate National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week, and the animal lovers of Fort Wayne were no exception. The Allen County Society for Prevention Against Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) takes care of the city's homeless cats and dogs and prepares them for the life they will live following their adoption. Although Shelter Appreciation Week takes place once a year, shelters work year round to ensure their four-legged friends are attended to with love while they wait for a family.

"I think that it's important that every community recognize the important role that they're local animal shelter plays in their community's overall health and wellbeing,"

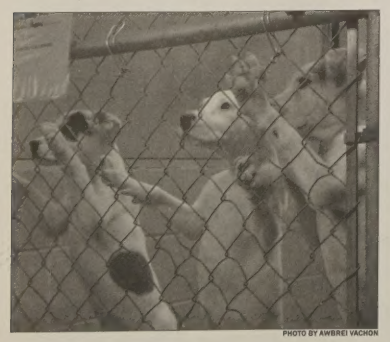


PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

The animals of the SPCA live in either the kennels or the cat colonies in the shelter. Three big yards in the back of the building provide play time, exercise and training for the dogs living in the shelter.

Jessica Henry, Allen County SPCA director, said. "Animal shelters keep stray animals from running on the streets, we vaccinate animals and adoptable pets and we're a source of information, comfort and services for the community at large."

In any typical week, the employees and volunteers perform tasks around the shelter to ensure the health, safety and happiness of every the animal there.

"At any given time, we have about 100 animals in the building, usually about 25 dogs, and the rest, cats, so there's significant amount of effort put into cleaning up after the animals, cleaning the animals themselves, feeding the animals (and) enriching the animals experience here," Henry said.

The SPCA is not a municipal animal organization, as opposed to Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control, which is run by the city of Fort Wayne. So to accomplish most of these tasks, the shelter relies on donations from others.

"The reason that donations are so important is because the better funded we are, the more lengths we're able to go to for animals in need," Henry said. "For example, we treat heartworm here when a dog tests positive for heartworm, and that can cost up to 1000 dollars for that one dog. So the more people donate to us, the more of those animals we can help. We can also have better enrichment programming for the animals here if they need new toys or if we want to put in new apparatus in the cat colonies."

In addition to caring for the pets, the shelter also tries to reach out to outsiders as well.

"(We) ran a free vaccine clinic where people could come here out through the garage (and) we had vets that volunteered their time that would vaccinate these animals," Dawn LaPorte, Allen County SPCA business manager, said. "They would be microchipped, they would get flea treatment, they would get some food, different things that we had going on, and a lot of these animals have never even been to a vet before,"

Another way the SPCA helps outsiders is through a program referred to as Compassion Fostering, which the shelter recently started participating in. Compassion Fostering is a way for the shelter to help individuals in unfortunate situations care for their pets.

Approximately half of all the animals coming into the shelter are transferred from the Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control, and pets from owner surrenders and other animal shelters make up the other half. Animal Care and Control has an open admission facility, which basically means it will take nearly any animal in, but unfortunately, the downside is typically once it reaches maximum capacity, animals must be euthanized, or put down, in order to make room for incoming animals. The SPCA, on the other hand, has a limited admission facility, meaning if there is not any room for another pet, the shelter will turn people away until it can accommodate more pets. In order to save as many animals as possible from being euthanized, the SPCA takes in pets from Animal Care and Control.

When these pets come into the shelter, they all go through the same general process before they are incorporated into the SPCA family. This includes a bath, testing, vaccination, any necessary treatment, spay or neuter surgery and finally, they are put up for adoption.

"We always want people to look here first before they consider purchasing an animal because there are a lot of wonderful dogs of all breeds and all ages, same thing for cats, who are looking for their forever homes and waiting on people to come find them," Henry said. "When somebody adopts an animal instead of purchasing one from a breeder or a pet store, you save two lives: you save the life of the animal that you're taking home that day, plus it makes space for us to go to animal control and bring in another animal."

One student in particular from the school, Kate Graney (12), has adopted a pet from the Allen County SPCA.

"My dog died the beginning of my junior year, and we were lonely, so we went to the SPCA to get a cat," Graney said. "There was like three rooms full of cats, and they let us play with the cats for a little while and decide which one we wanted."

Although the shelter invests a lot of time caring for the animals inside the building, the ultimate goal is to get the animals out of the shelter and into a new home. Volunteers such as Louise Yahne, former first grade teacher at Fairfield Elementary, puts together Go Home bags for the families who adopt a pet, which includes helpful information as well as treats and toys.

"My goal for every animal when it comes in here is that the experience is similar to they're going to a daycare, it's just a different family's going to pick them up than the one who dropped them off," Henry said. "I want it to be a positive experience for them, I want them to be in a clean environment, I want them to feel love, I want them to feel healthy, I want them to know joy and I want them to find their forever-homes with families who will commit to them for the rest of their lives."

A blast from the past: 90s kid childhood defined

List of prominent TV shows, movies and more from the late 90s to early 2000s

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

Before too long, generations will have no recollection of the things that defined our childhood as traditional "90's Kids." All of the many trademarks of the 90s and early 2000s will cease to have any relevance to these upcoming generations. This year in high school, students born in the year 2001 are finally roaming the hallways, and within the next couple years, there will no longer be a graduating class consisting of students born in the 1990s. Basically someday we're going to be those cool old-timers that people will say to us, "no way you were born in the 1900s?" We're going to feel like ancient artifacts from a completely different century--in a good way, of course.

As kids born in the 90s, typically the first thing that comes to our mind isn't fashion or historical events, but rather, when we think of the of those precious adolescent years, what sticks out to us the most is the popular TV shows and movies, emerging video consoles and corresponding games and awesome toys, among other things.

The following is a detailed list describing the most prominent highlights of our childhood, starting with TV shows and movies.

-**Franklin the Turtle**: Quite appropriately, we'll start out with some of the TV shows intended for younger audiences and work our way up. Franklin was a TV show about a (pretty funny looking) turtle with a little red handkerchief around his neck and a matching red hat, who embarked on adventures with his best friends (one of which was a bear literally named Bear), like riding scooters and overcoming his fear small, dark places (like the inside of his shell).

-**Little Bear**: Similarly, Little Bear, if you don't remember, was a cartoon about a young bear and all his furry friends, including a duck, a hen, an owl and a cat, as well as a girl named Emily (obviously not as fury)

-**Dragon Tales**: This one was a little more popular than the three aforementioned shows; a brother and sister travel to this cool dragon world that pretty much all of us were incredibly jealous about.

-**Scooby Doo: Zoinks!**: Venturing towards a slightly more mature audience, Scooby Doo and his gang were awesome. Enough said.

-**Courage the Cowardly Dog**: Keeping a steady dog theme, Courage the Cowardly Dog was weird; it was terrifying. For some reason, though, watching it gave you a sense of pride and, oddly enough, courage, because of how freaky the show was.

-**The Grim Adventure of Billy and Mandy**: The title doesn't like, this show was pretty grim. I mean, the Grim Reaper was literally one of the main characters. How much more grim does it get? It was a very odd show, if I might add.

-**Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends**: Characters like Bloo, Coco and Mac and Cheese really made this a memorable show.

-**Teen Titans**: Not to be mistaken with Teen Titans Go, also known as the newer and not improved version of the one from the early 2000s. Why do they do such terrible things to cartoons nowadays?

-**Danny Phantom**: This show was definitely one of the best shows we had as kids. He was just 14 when his parents built a very strange machine...his molecules got all rearranged...he had snowy white hair, and glowing green eyes...he had to stop all the ghosts that were coming through, you get the gist.

-**Spongebob Squarepants**: What is childhood without Spongebob and Patrick? Nonexistent, that's what. Spongebob was so good the producers had no choice but keep on airing it. Now that is what I call a true legend.

-**The Fairly Oddparents**: Dinkleberg! This show revolutionized our hopes and dreams, hands down. I don't think anyone of us didn't hope that we would somehow be blessed with fairy godparents.

-**The Amanda Show**: This may have been one of the weirdest shows out there. With that being said, court dismissed; bring in the dancing lobsters.

-**Drake and Josh**: Words cannot even begin to explain our universal love and admiration for Drake and Josh, so in lieu of a description, let's all just have a moment of silence to remember this one. Feel free to grab a tissue to wipe away any stray tears if you would like.

-**The Suite Life of Zack and Cody**: There is no doubt these two trouble makers kick-started millions of kids' dreams nation-wide of living in a big hotel and luggage-bag-cart-surfing down the long hallways, terrorizing guests in the process. I don't think there is a single person in the world who didn't like that show.

-**The Harry Potter movies:** I know not everyone was a Harry Potter fan, but all throughout our childhood, there was always a new Harry Potter movie coming out. Going to see the new Harry Potter was one of the most thrilling movie-going experiences out there. During that last movie, watching Harry, Ron and Hermione hurl their kids off into the brick walls, that was the end of our childhood. Never again would we await the release of the next Harry Potter movie.

Now venturing away towards animation and motion picture, here are some miscellaneous objects which all of us 90s kids can relate to.

-**Constantly having to sharpen your pencil to the point where it was basically a weapon**: We didn't have mechanical pencils for quite a while in school, thus, we had the excuse of needing to sharpen our pencil the second it became a little dull. Number two's were our number one (by default).

-**Overhead Projectors**: These bad boys dominated class time lessons. Some teachers had the ones where they simply just placed the transparency on top of the the overhead, but others had the ones where the transparency was like four feet long and the teacher would just crank the little handle and the transparency would scroll up or down.

-**Tamagotchi pets**: I personally cannot vouch for the splendors of owning a Tamagotchi pet, but I do know they were pretty popular and I was always jealous I didn't have one.

-**GameCube**: The GameCube wasn't the only game console during its time, but it was unique in the fact that XBox and PlayStation both lived to see the following generations. The GameCube sadly didn't prosper the way its competitors did, but it sure provided us with technological fun.

-**Easy Bake Oven**: They probably have way better versions of the Easy Bake Oven today, but that doesn't change how exciting it was to mix the ingredients together, pour the batter into the hockey-puck-shaped tray and place it in the little slot underneath the light bulb for what felt like a whole day until it was finally ready.

-**Light Bright**: This box had holes all on the top of it and it came with a bunch of tiny, colorful little pegs. Typically there were different patterns you follow to create the different masterpieces of your dreams.

-**Cursive**: Cursive is hard, and the majority of teenagers today most likely still struggle with it, but I think there is a great deal of satisfaction that comes with being able to write a complete sentence in cursive, knowing full well that even though it doesn't look as good as grandma's, it's still pretty fancy.

So, as we all run home and try to obtain as many copies of cherished TV shows and movies that will eventually be lost to the world, so we can both binge watch them in our free time as well as force our kids to sit down and watch them someday instead of whatever popular junk that will surface during their time (because let's face it, most kid shows today already severely lack quality, and it's probably safe to say television is headed in a downward spiral, and it's everyone else down with it).

Moral of the story, never grow up. Always express that inner 90s kid of yours.

OR

Before too long, generations will have no recollection of the things that defined our childhood as traditional "90s Kids." All of the many trademarks of the 90s and early 2000s will cease to have any relevance to these upcoming generations. This year in high school, students born in the year 2001 are finally roaming the hallways, and within the next couple years, there will no longer be a graduating class consisting of students born in the 1990s. Basically someday we're going to be those cool old-timers that people will say to us, "no way you were born in the 1900s?" We're going to feel like ancient artifacts from a completely different century--in a good way, of course.

As kids born in the 90s, typically the first thing that comes to our mind isn't fashion or historical events, but rather, when we think of the of those precious adolescent years, what sticks out to us the most is the popular TV shows and cartoons of the time.

The following is an extensive list of the most prominent TV shows of our childhood.

Scooby-Doo, Where are You!	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Kim Possible	Avatar	Little Bear
The Flintstones	The Road Runner	Ed, Edd n Eddy	Pokémon	Winnie the Pooh
The Jetsons	Pink Panther	Ben 10	Recess	Dragon Tales
Johnny Bravo	The Yogi Bear Show	The Powerpuff Girls	Gargoyles	Sagwa
Samurai Jack	Camp Lazlo	Pinky and the Brain	Rolie Polie Olie	Lilo & Stitch
Dexter's Laboratory	The Smurfs	Catdog	PB&J Otter	Chalkzone
Arthur	Foster's Home for Imaginary	Teen Titans	The Proud Family	The Little Mermaid
Hey Arnold	Friends	Courage the Cowardly Dog	Rugrats	Aladdin
Johnny Quest	Kid Next Door	Life as a Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	Lloyd in Space
Cow and Chicken	Popeye the Sailor	The Snorks	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Bear in the Big Blue House
My Gym Partner's a Monkey	The Jetsons	Krypto the Superdog	Rocket Power	Barney
I am Weasel	Wacky Races	Tom and Jerry	Franklin	The Emperor's New Groove

Wright's drawing to be featured on cover of Glo Magazine

Senior's colored pencil rendering will be on cover of May issue of local magazine

Since starting her first year at Homestead this year as a senior, Emily Wright has toned her artistic skills with the hope of pursuing an art-related career that incorporates this talent. While sitting in her government glass earlier this month, she was informed that her drawing would be on the cover of the May issue of Glo magazine.

Spartana: How long have you been drawing?

Wright: I have been drawing ever since I can remember. It's something I've always done, even when I was little, even when I wasn't that good at it

Spartana: What would your past self from when you first started drawing think of you having one of your pieces appear on the cover of a magazine?

Wright: I probably would have never thought I would be good enough to have my drawing on the cover of anything. Honestly, I have improved so much within the years.

Spartana: How did the magazine find your art?

Wright: A while back... about two years ago, I drew a picture pretty similar to the one that's going to be on the cover, and my mom was like, "You really need to enter in some of your stuff for Glo Magazine... it's a free, local magazine and they do similar stuff."

I just kind of blew it off and never really got to it, but after I drew (the improved piece), I was like, "You know what, I think I'll try it." And I talked to my art teacher (Sarah Jones, art teacher) and she actually knows the person in charge (of the submissions), so my art teacher emailed her and she emailed us back about a week later and (30 minutes afterwards) she emailed us again and said she was so excited about (the drawing) that she told the (magazine) board about it and they discussed it and it's going to be on the cover of the May issue.

My art teacher actually called me while I was in Government to tell me (about the second email). I thought I was in trouble or something because my teacher was like, "You have a phone call." But it was so exciting.

Spartana: Can you share a bit about your experience of creating the drawing?

Wright: (In art class), we were actually doing aesthetic poetry, which is where you find a poem or a quote and you kind of draw a picture for it. And mine was (the poem) "There's No Cosmetic For Happiness" and so I thought that (the drawing I created) would represent it.

Spartana: How long did it take to finish your drawing?

Wright: It probably took about 20 hours, but it was pread out over a week.

Spartana: What are some other pieces you've created?

Wright: A lot of my artwork I actually give away... Once I get done drawing it, the purpose for it is kind of lost; I feel like someone else would have a better use for it.

But (for one of my pieces) I needed to draw a self portrait for my portfolio so one of my drawings is a series of me sneezing because as I was taking the reference pictures of my face, I sneezed, so I used those three pictures of me sneezing for my self portrait.

Spartana: Are you planning to incorporate art in your future career?

Wright: Yes; if you had asked me a year ago I would have said no, but after seeing, and I'm not trying to sound cocky, but after seeing that I am good enough, I am definitely going to take advantage of that opportunity.

I'm applying for (art) scholarships at a couple colleges. I think it would be cool to be an illustrator or incorporate it with business somehow, like in advertising.

Spartana: What advice would you give to younger artists?

Wright: I would just draw as many things as possible, all the time.

Spartana: What are your artistic goals?

Drawing: "There's No Cosmetic for Happiness."
PHOTO TAKEN BY: REAGAN MIKESELL

Wright: I want to find a purpose for my art. I've actually started a plan... I thought about what a difference I could make with art and I think it would be cool to draw a bunch of fanart and sell it and donate the money to McKenzie's Hope (which is an organization) for abused children because I had a past of abuse and... I went to McKenzie's Hope.

I think it would be good to try to make a difference and use my talent for the good.

--Michal Spanjer

designed by emma leininger

SPORTS

Football ends with defeat from Greyhounds

After overcoming Carroll in sectionals season ends with a fall against Carmel

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Writer

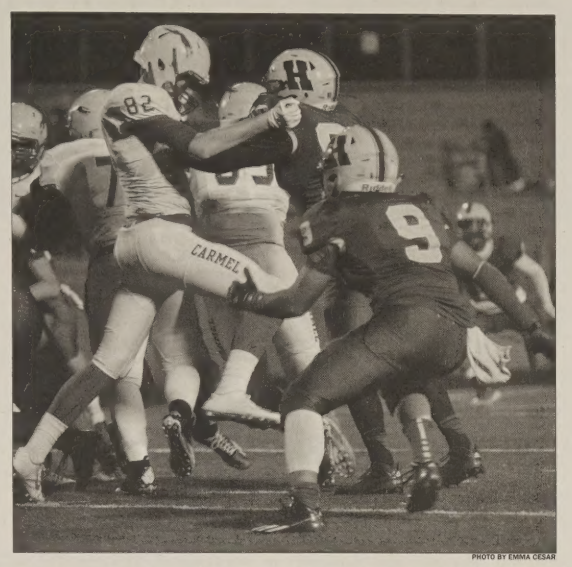


PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

Spartans face Carmel Greyhounds after sectional win against Carroll Chargers.

For a school that has not won a sectional football game in years, this season drew attention from a lot of Spartans.

This season's football team saw a better record and performance than in years past. The season, sadly, drew to a close with the team's defeat against Carmel.

"Since the beginning of the season, the team changed their offensive game a lot, and made a lot of progress on their passing game" Matt Dunlap (11), statistics recorder, said regarding the team's progress this season.

From the beginning of the team's season, one of their biggest struggles was their second-half playing.

The team never failed to start the game going full steam ahead and prepared to go all the way. Then, however, the team would have difficulty recovering in the second half, and would sometimes fall just short of a victory.

Players, though, are optimistic that this is something that they will be able to work on and tackle next season.

"Our second-half game is something the team and myself are really hoping to work on next year, and hopefully that will improve our record just that extra bit," Carson Cox (11) said of the team's goals for next season.

Along with the team trying to improve their game, the team will have to compensate for their outgoing seniors, and change their game plan to adjust for these missing players.

"Especially with Ben Skowronek (12), wide receiver, leaving, I can see the team going to a lot more of a running game for next season, as opposed to the extensive passing that they stuck with this season," Dunlap said of his expectations for next season.

"The victory over the Chargers was a giant moral victory, and even though we couldn't top Carmel, I think that this will really set the tone and a goal for next year,"

CARSON COX (11)
Free Safety and Outside Line Backer

Despite the leaving seniors, hope is not lost. There are good prospects in the incoming junior class.

"Some of the players who are coming in could definitely have a good effect on the team," Dunlap said. "Some of the players like Jiya Wright (10) and Tahj Curry (12) could definitely influence the team for the better and are really promising for their next season. With Drew Keszei (11) returning and some of the other veterans, we should be pretty good on leadership. But I really do see the team doing a lot more running, because we're losing pretty much our entire receiving core, which could be a problem."

Hopefully all of the talent coming in balance out all of the graduating seniors, and the team doesn't take too big of a hit from the change in lineup.

The players remain optimistic that they will be able to start a tradition of winning sectionals, especially considering that the victory was over the rival school Carroll, following the regular season loss to the Chargers.

"The victory over the Chargers was a giant moral victory, and even though we couldn't top Carmel, I think that this will really set the tone and a goal for next year," Cox said.

Hockey season under way with senior captain's leadership

Team challenged with new coaching staff members and smaller roster

BY WILLOW PIERCE
Writer

"My favorite part about hockey is how I can step out on the ice and suddenly all my other problems and stress just disappear," Peri Darmofal (10) said.

Stress may be just what the players are experiencing this year. A new coach, a smaller roster, recent injuries and two female members are just some of the new twists to the team.

The team this year is smaller. While they usually have up to 20 players, this year there are only 14.

"I think for what we were given we are doing pretty good," Darmofal said.

Included in the14 players on the team are two girls, Emily Morthost (11) and Darmofal, whom has been playing hockey for nine years.

"There are more boys in the sport here because it is a boys' sport." Darmofal said. "But in other areas like Michigan, it is very common for girls to play hockey."

Darmofal recently broke her collarbone and was sidelined for seven weeks.

Since hockey is a full contact sport, many injuries can happen during a game.

"I've seen broken bones and concussions," Darmofal said. "Recently, a player on Carroll's team had a bone in his leg shatter."

"My sophomore year, we saw a kid carted off," Jimmy Rapoza (12) said. "Our defensemen open-eyed just destroyed him. That's the worst I've seen."

Rapoza recently became the captain of the team and wants the team to do well this year.

"It's different this year, it's a rebuilding year." Rapoza said. "We are a young team and that in itself is a challenge."

"We are a young team and that in itself is a challenge."

JIMMY RAPOZA (12)
Hockey Team Captain

Another change for the team is a new coach. Last year's coach is now working with Northrop's hockey team, who also happens to be one of the Spartans' biggest rivals.

"We always have a little bit more venom when we play them," Rapoza said. "But they're fun games."

With the season getting on its way, it will be interesting to watch how far the team goes with a coach who has worked with them before, Kobi Peters.

"The way [the team] performs, the way they do in the circumstances that we are playing a team that isn't even in the same league.. They stay with it till the end," Rapoza said.

For over 20 years, the Spartans hockey team has been a part of the Fort Wayne High School Hockey Association (FWHSHA) along with the Bishop Dwenger Saints, Carroll Chargers, Leo Lions, Summit City Panthers, and the Fort Wayne Bruins.

Also in the league are two midget teams (somewhat like an allstar/travel team) who compete in various tournaments in and out of state and consist of players from the high school teams.

Games take place on Wednesday nights, but check the Fort Wayne High School Hockey Association (FWHSHA) website to learn exact dates and times that the team plays.

Brayden Law wins second place at cross country state finals

Spartana: How long have you been participating in cross country?
Law: Cross country started in sixth grade.
Spartana: What drove you to start running? Why are you interested in it?
Law: I started doing track in third grade, as a sprinter, and in fifth grade I did the mile in track and that was kind of like a long distance event, and then I just really liked it so I started doing cross country and I guess the bug bit me ever since.
Spartana: How do you prepare for all of your meets?
Law: It usually takes like a hard week of training and everything. A lot of speed workouts and a lot of tempo days and stuff but I mean it just some good training all week and then when the meet comes you know you're ready for it.
Spartana: How do you feel the team, overall, did this year?
Law: The team did alright I mean we didn't· I feel like we could've improved a lot more this year; I mean we definitely had a good season. Some guys had some great times and everything but uh I mean definitely could've stepped it up I mean it's the team you know we can always do better next year.
Spartana: What advice would you give to a beginner runner?
Law: Honestly anybody who is a beginner runner, it's a kind of a struggle at first to figure out what's kind of going on. Once you get used to it I mean you'll know and stuff, things will kind of fall into place. Just don't give up at first because it is kind of difficult.
Spartana: How do you keep yourself going while you're running?
Law: I guess mainly the biggest thing like when I'm running is what the prize at the end is. I mean like if it's training you know it's, I'm gearing up for the next meet and when it's racing it's just the best of my ability is kind of what I'm thinking about while I'm running.
Spartana: Who supports you throughout all of this?
Law: There are a lot of people who support me and I really appreciate anybody who does. It's usually the guys on the cross country team. My coaches definitely support me. I have a coach in Ludington, Mich. who I keep in contact with throughout; I meet up with him during the summer, so there is like a lot of people who support me, especially the guys on the team. You know I have a girlfriend, Hailey Johnson, she goes to Carroll, but she always supporting me and I just really appreciate anybody who does come out and support me because going out and running is hard to do and when you have people there supporting you it's like, easier.
Spartana: Do you plan on continuing running? If you do, how will you improve for next year?
Law: Yeah, I plan on running in college, I still haven't decided where I am going but improving for next year, it is going to be a whole different ball game, I think longer distances and stuff but I mean just mainly the decision I guess you could say right now is the main part.
Spartana: What colleges are you looking at right now?
Law: I'm kind of looking at Michigan, I'm looking at IU and I'm looking at Grand Valley. Those are like the main three. I don't know, I plan on making my decision in like January or February.

-- Alexis Jordan

PHOTO BY LOGAN MULLINIX

Law leads the pack at the New Haven Classic

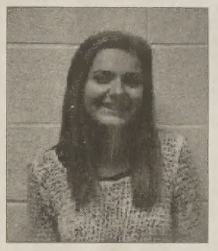
Necessary aspects of a strong team beyond skill in the specific sport

While a great sports team obviously has strong skill levels in the sport they are playing, there is major aspects of their team that make them stronger outside of their ability to hit, run or kick.

The importance of a close bond between teammates is a large part of what makes a strong team strong. A player who is close with their teammates is able to communicate with their team better, and the team can communicate back to them as well. Players are not afraid to give constructive criticism to a person on their team, and they won't hold back on words of encouragement either. If players are comfortable with the people around them, they are less afraid of making mistakes and are more confident on the court, field or track. It is also important that the team is close outside of the field, court or track. Close friendships result in close teammates.

In almost any sport, communication is an extremely important aspect. For an example, if a volleyball team was silent, they would never win any games. There is three contacts, and each one consists of multiple players calling the ball in one way or another.

KAYLEE'S COURT



BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

The passer, the player who has the first contact, has to yell out that they are getting the ball, most of the time calling out either 'mine,' or 'got it.' Once their ball is in the air, the setter, who has second contact, has to not only listen for their hitters who are calling for the set, but also yell out where they are placing the ball. Finally the hitters have to call their set, and exactly how they want it to be set. Once the ball goes over, everyone has to try their best to call out where they think the ball will be hit on the court, so the passers can move accordingly.

Aside from communication, support is a huge part of team success. Whether it is friends and family who come to a game, or there is a student section that shows up to every game, support always motivates a team to play better. Student sections are a big part of most schools, especially Homestead. Our football games and basketball games have always been the most popular events our student sections to attend and they are always loud, rowdy and excited. Our student section leaders spend lots of time planning themes, chants and even songs to get our teams as excited as possible so they are motivated to play their best at every game. It is unbelievable how big of an effect it has on players to have somebody cheering for them, or even better, an entire group of people.

Good coaching is also an extremely impactful aspect of a strong team. If a coach puts in effort to bond and connect with their players, they will be way more willing to listen to what they have to say, and try new things their coaches believe would be for the better. If a coach shows that they care about their team, their players will trust them more and there will be better communication between coach and player, or coach and team. It is also important that the coach understands their players and their individual skill levels. If a coach isn't aware if their team's abilities, the team will not be as strong as it has potential to be.

Work ethic is an impactful part of a great team as well. While players can have amazing skill in their sport, if they are the only one putting in effort, the team will not succeed. Everyone needs to put in an equal amount of work and time for the group as a whole to be successful, because they are competing as a team for their school, not for themselves. If everyone is compliant and willing to work together for the good of their team, then the group of people seems more like a team and less like individual players.

A team also has to focus on their mindsets. It is important for a team to not only get excited when something good happens, but to stay excited and keep their energy up, because they feed off of each other when it comes to energy and excitement. Sometimes a team will go on a point streak, and then lose one or two points and lose all of their energy and momentum. It is so important to not get down on yourself or others, because there is no way it will help the team in any way. Going along with this, a positive mindset is key.

A player also has to be willing to make other people on the team better. Part of this is coaching each other, giving constructive criticism and encouraging each other when they do something well. It could also be as simple as waiting around while a coach is giving special attention to another player. For volleyball, it is important to never be standing still, because there is always balls to shag or someone to help.

Another aspect of this is being coachable. A player needs to be willing to listen to their coach and try their best to fix their mistakes as they are pointed out to them. At these times, it is important that they are putting in effort to go above just trying their best, and they are actually trying to outdo themselves for the better of their team.

Spartans continue their athletic career in college

STUDENT	COLLEGE ATTENDING:	PLANNED MAJOR:	WHY YOU CHOSE THIS COLLEGE:	POST COLLEGE PLANS WITH YOUR SPORT:	FAVORITE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS MEMORY:
SAVANNAH BUCK (12)	University of Saint Francis	Nursing, then going back for to get my masters or doctorate to be a nurse practicioner.	I really like the coaching staff, their academic programs and the campus is beautiful.	I am not planning on playing professionally after college. I love the game and want to win a championship.	Going on a state run with my team last year. Those are some of the moments I will never forget.
PAIGE EAKRIGHT (12)	Huntington University	Elementary education with a special education minor.	I was looking for a smaller school that was close to home that I could also play volleyball at.	I have always loved volleyball and wanted to continue in college, but I don't see myself playing after college.	The bus rides with my team to all of our away games and tournaments.
KEVIN FREBEL (12)	Kentucky University	Mechanical or biomedical engineering. But who knows nowadays, am I right?	It's an overall great school for athletics, social life, and academics. The basketball games will be lit.	I really want to make it as an SEC champion. It can prepare me for my ultimate goal of the Olympics.	Winning state was exhilirating, but I love spending time with my team and clownin' with them.
ABBY MOORE (12)	Calvin College	Nursing major	The atmosphere is great, and the coaching staff and volleyball program is awesome, as well as their nursing school.	I'm just playing for fun!	My favorite thing is meeting new people and making lifelong friends.
LINDLEY KISTLER (12)	IPFW	Business major	I love the coaching staff and I was their #1 recruit in my grade. My style of play fits into their system.	Hopefully starting as a freshman and helping the team to make it into the NCAA tournament.	Travelling in the summer for a national tournament for a week and winning it all against national teams.
KARISSA MCLAUGHLIN (11)	Florida University	Sports management or sports communication	The coaching staff and players were who I wanted to surround myself with to be the best person possible.	To be the best basketball player possible and play professionally after college, then go into my major.	Going to state is something I won't forget. The loss motivated my teammates and state is our goal.
BETSY SCHROEDER (12)	Huntington University	Undecided, but leaning on majoring in business	It's a small campus and it was so welcoming. I can strengthen my faith every day.	My goal freshman year is to see how far the team can get. I want to become better physically and more importantly, mentally.	Winning the sectional title, and individually placing third overall.

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Girls swim begins new season with new methods

Coaches take lessons from last year, new training groups split swim team

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

A team can not be built with just anyone; it requires individuals with drive, dedication and passion for the sport. In swimming, without a true love for the sport, it's tough to want to participate. However, young and old swimmers alike all have two things in common: fantastic lung support and a desire to compete through a foundation of hard work. Senior Alex Maher (12), a seasoned swim veteran, has reentered the swim community for her final year with refreshed enthusiasm for the sport.

"I decided to swim this year because I swam for 12 years, but then I had to take a year off because of an injury," Maher said. "I decided to return because I love the people on the team and the coaches. My personal goal for this season is to be a good senior and display the best leadership gained from experience(...)I'm going to worry about the team as a whole,"

The girl's swim team began its season a couple weeks ago, and although they haven't had any meets yet, the team appears optimistic about the upcoming season under the guidance of Bobby Mattin, head coach, and Julie Anderson, assistant coach. With a change in coaches, there are also changes in goals. With one season of high school swimming under his belt, Mattin is enthusiastic for the upcoming season.

"I think that that biggest thing I learned last year was that there's a great passion for this sport in this area, which is exciting, and that's part of the reason why I came here from Boston last year," Mattin said. "There's an incredible momentum that's building here as well, so I think the biggest take away from last year is that the potential for this program is limitless, and that includes competing with the best teams in the state, which is exactly what our goal is. So I'm excited that the past season has definitely made my optimism for this year pretty high. The goal is to put the best team in the pool as we possibly can."

The team specifically made changes in the program by promoting more camaraderie as well as goal setting. With the addition of Anderson, the swimmers have received her well, as some even had her in prior years at other swim clubs. Harley Heinerich (11), a member of the team returning for her third year, believes that Anderson will be a great addition to the staff.

"I think the team will improve working with her, especially with the positive mental aspect of swimming. All the rough practices can get discouraging, but Julie always has a positive attitude and does what she can to make sure everyone is having fun," Heinrich said.

Along with new staff comes new coaching methods, Mattin has chosen to divide the swim team into multiple groups based on dedication to the sport of swimming, and he believes that this is a key element to the success of the team this year. In high school, the two main groups of swimmers are called Senior and National Focus.

"What we've done is we really try to cater to every ability level, and more importantly every commitment level" Mattin said. "There are definitely lots of athletes on this team who are looking for next level training and are willing to commit to a tougher schedule, a tougher training regimen and we have a lot of other swimmers who are going to be chasing that goal as well."

National Focus is catered more towards the highly committed people, as they have an attendance requirement that demands approximately 10 practices per week. While the Senior group still puts in several hours of practice a week, it has a less demanding time schedule which means it caters to more swimmers.

With the combination of dedicated coaches as well as swimmers, this year's team is looking to make a big splash in the upcoming season.

designed by emma leininger

SPORTS

Football ends with defeat from Greyhounds

After overcoming Carroll in sectionals season ends with a fall against Carmel

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Writer

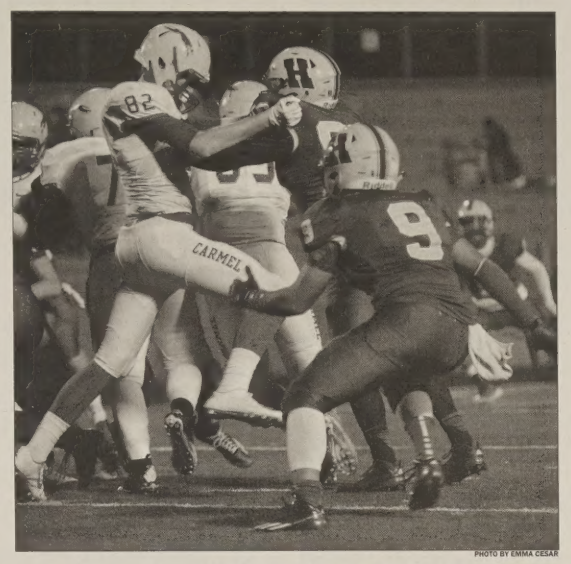


PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

Spartans face Carmel Greyhounds after sectional win against Carroll Chargers.

For a school that has not won a sectional football game in years, this season drew attention from a lot of Spartans.

This season's football team saw a better record and performance than in years past. The season, sadly, drew to a close with the team's defeat against Carmel.

"Since the beginning of the season, the team changed their offensive game a lot, and made a lot of progress on their passing game" Matt Dunlap (11), statistics recorder, said regarding the team's progress this season.

From the beginning of the team's season, one of their biggest struggles was their second-half playing.

The team never failed to start the game going full steam ahead and prepared to go all the way. Then, however, the team would have difficulty recovering in the second half, and would sometimes fall just short of a victory.

Players, though, are optimistic that this is something that they will be able to work on and tackle next season.

"Our second-half game is something the team and myself are really hoping to work on next year, and hopefully that will improve our record just that extra bit," Carson Cox (11) said of the team's goals for next season.

Along with the team trying to improve their game, the team will have to compensate for their outgoing seniors, and change their game plan to adjust for these missing players.

"Especially with Ben Skowronek (12), wide receiver, leaving, I can see the team going to a lot more of a running game for next season, as opposed to the extensive passing that they stuck with this season," Dunlap said of his expectations for next season.

Despite the leaving seniors, hope is not lost. There are good prospects in the incoming junior class.

"Some of the players who are coming in could definitely have a good effect on the team," Dunlap said. "Some of the players like Jiya Wright (10) and Tahj Curry (12) could definitely influence the team for the better and are really promising for their next season. With Drew Keszei (11) returning and some of the other veterans, we should be pretty good on leadership. But I really do see the team doing a lot more running, because we're losing pretty much our entire receiving core, which could be a problem."

> "The victory over the Chargers was a giant moral victory, and even though we couldn't top Carmel, I think that this will really set the tone and a goal for next year,"
>
> **CARSON COX (11)**
> *Free Safety and Outside Line Backer*

Hopefully all of the talent coming in balance out all of the graduating seniors, and the team doesn't take too big of a hit from the change in lineup.

The players remain optimistic that they will be able to start a tradition of winning sectionals, especially considering that the victory was over the rival school Carroll, following the regular season loss to the Chargers.

"The victory over the Chargers was a giant moral victory, and even though we couldn't top Carmel, I think that this will really set the tone and a goal for next year," Cox said.

Hockey season under way with senior captain's leadership

Team challenged with new coaching staff members and smaller roster

BY WILLOW PIERCE
Writer

"My favorite part about hockey is how I can step out on the ice and suddenly all my other problems and stress just disappear," Peri Darmofal (10) said.

Stress may be just what the players are experiencing this year. A new coach, a smaller roster, recent injuries and two female members are just some of the new twists to the team.

The team this year is smaller. While they usually have up to 20 players, this year there are only 14.

"I think for what we were given we are doing pretty good," Darmofal said.

Included in the14 players on the team are two girls, Emily Morthost (11) and Darmofal, whom has been playing hockey for nine years.

"There are more boys in the sport here because it is a boys' sport." Darmofal said. "But in other areas like Michigan, it is very common for girls to play hockey."

Darmofal recently broke her collarbone and was sidelined for seven weeks.

Since hockey is a full contact sport, many injuries can happen during a game.

"I've seen broken bones and concussions," Darmofal said. "Recently, a player on Carroll's team had a bone in his leg shatter."

"My sophomore year, we saw a kid carted off," Jimmy Rapoza (12) said. "Our defensemen open-eyed just destroyed him. That's the worst I've seen."

> "We are a young team and that in itself is a challenge."
>
> **JIMMY RAPOZA (12)**
> *Hockey Team Captain*

Rapoza recently became the captain of the team and wants the team to do well this year.

"It's different this year, it's a rebuilding year." Rapoza said. "We are a young team and that in itself is a challenge."

Another change for the team is a new coach. Last year's coach is now working with Northrop's hockey team, who also happens to be one of the Spartans' biggest rivals.

"We always have a little bit more venom when we play them," Rapoza said. "But they're fun games."

With the season getting on its way, it will be interesting to watch how far the team goes with a coach who has worked with them before, Kobi Peters.

"The way [the team] performs, the way they do in the circumstances that we are playing a team that isn't even in the same league.. They stay with it till the end," Rapoza said.

For over 20 years, the Spartans hockey team has been a part of the Fort Wayne High School Hockey Association (FWHSHA) along with the Bishop Dwenger Saints, Carroll Chargers, Leo Lions, Summit City Panthers, and the Fort Wayne Bruins.

Also in the league are two midget teams (somewhat like an allstar/travel team) who compete in various tournaments in and out of state and consist of players from the high school teams.

Games take place on Wednesday nights, but check the Fort Wayne High School Hockey Association (FWHSHA) website to learn exact dates and times that the team plays.

Brayden Law wins second place at cross country state finals

Spartana: How long have you been participating in cross country?
Law: Cross country started in sixth grade.
Spartana: What drove you to start running? Why are you interested in it?
Law: I started doing track in third grade, as a sprinter, and in fifth grade I did the mile in track and that was kind of like a long distance event, and then I just really liked it so I started doing cross country and I guess the bug bit me ever since.
Spartana: How do you prepare for all of your meets?
Law: It usually takes like a hard week of training and everything. A lot of speed workouts and a lot of tempo days and stuff but I mean it just some good training all week and then when the meet comes you know you're ready for it.
Spartana: How do you feel the team, overall, did this year?
Law: The team did alright I mean we didn't- I feel like we could've improved a lot more this year; I mean we definitely had a good season. Some guys had some great times and everything but uh I mean definitely could've stepped it up I mean it's the team you know we can always do better next year.
Spartana: What advice would you give to a beginner runner?
Law: Honestly anybody who is a beginner runner, it's a kind of a struggle at first to figure out what's kind of going on. Once you get used to it I mean you'll know and stuff, things will kind of fall into place. Just don't give up at first because it is kind of difficult.
Spartana: How do you keep yourself going while you're running?
Law: I guess mainly the biggest thing like when I'm running is what the prize at the end is. I mean like if it's training you know it's, I'm gearing up for the next meet and when it's racing it's just the best of my ability is kind of what I'm thinking about while I'm running.
Spartana: Who supports you throughout all of this?
Law: There are a lot of people who support me and I really appreciate anybody who does. It's usually the guys on the cross country team. My coaches definitely support me. I have a coach in Ludington, Mich. who I keep in contact with throughout; I meet up with him during the summer, so there is like a lot of people who support me, especially the guys on the team. You know I have a girlfriend, Hailey Johnson, she goes to Carroll, but she always supporting me and I just really appreciate anybody who does come out and support me because going out and running is hard to do and when you have people there supporting you it's like, easier.
Spartana: Do you plan on continuing running? If you do, how will you improve for next year?
Law: Yeah, I plan on running in college, I still haven't decided where I am going but improving for next year, it is going to be a whole different ball game, I think longer distances and stuff but I mean just mainly the decision I guess you could say right now is the main part.
Spartana: What colleges are you looking at right now?
Law: I'm kind of looking at Michigan, I'm looking at IU and I'm looking at Grand Valley. Those are like the main three. I don't know, I plan on making my decision in like January or February.

-- Alexis Jordan

PHOTO BY LOGAN MULLINIX

Law leads the pack at the New Haven Classic

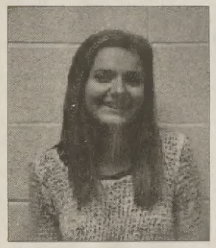
Necessary aspects of a strong team beyond skill in the specific sport

While a great sports team obviously has strong skill levels in the sport they are playing, there is major aspects of their team that make them stronger outside of their ability to hit, run or kick.

The importance of a close bond between teammates is a large part of what makes a strong team strong. A player who is close with their teammates is able to communicate with their team better, and the team can communicate back to them as well. Players are not afraid to give constructive criticism to a person on their team, and they won't hold back on words of encouragement either. If players are comfortable with the people around them, they are less afraid of making mistakes and are more confident on the court, field or track. It is also important that the team is close outside of the field, court or track. Close friendships result in close teammates.

In almost any sport, communication is an extremely important aspect. For an example, if a volleyball team was silent, they would never win any games. There is three contacts, and each one consists of multiple players calling the ball in one way or another. The passer, the player who has the first contact, has to yell out that they are getting the ball, most of the time calling out either 'mine,' or 'got it.' Once their ball is in the air, the setter, who has second contact, has to not only listen for their hitters who are calling for the set, but also yell out where they are placing the ball. Finally the hitters have to call their set, and exactly how they want it to be set. Once the ball goes over, everyone has to try their best to call out where they think the ball will be hit on the court, so the passers can move accordingly.

KAYLEE'S COURT



BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

Aside from communication, support is a huge part of team success. Whether it is friends and family who come to a game, or there is a student section that shows up to every game, support always motivates a team to play better. Student sections are a big part of most schools, especially Homestead. Our football games and basketball games have always been the most popular events our student sections to attend and they are always loud, rowdy and excited. Our student section leaders spend lots of time planning themes, chants and even songs to get our teams as excited as possible so they are motivated to play their best at every game, It is unbelievable how big of an effect it has on players to have somebody cheering for them, or even better, an entire group of people.

Good coaching is also an extremely impactful aspect of a strong team. If a coach puts in effort to bond and connect with their players, they will be way more willing to listen to what they have to say, and try new things their coaches believe would be for the better. If a coach shows that they care about their team, their players will trust them more and there will be better communication between coach and player, or coach and team. It is also important that the coach understands their players and their individual skill levels. If a coach isn't aware if their team's abilities, the team will not be as strong as it has potential to be.

Work ethic is an impactful part of a great team as well. While players can have amazing skill in their sport, if they are the only one putting in effort, the team will not succeed. Everyone needs to put in an equal amount of work and time for the group as a whole to be successful, because they are competing as a team for their school, not for themselves. If everyone is compliant and willing to work together for the good of their team, then the group of people seems more like a team and less like individual players.

A team also has to focus on their mindsets. It is important for a team to not only get excited when something good happens, but to stay excited and keep their energy up, because they feed off of each other when it comes to energy and excitement. Sometimes a team will go on a point streak, and then lose one or two points and lose all of their energy and momentum. It is so important to not get down on yourself or others, because there is no way it will help the team in any way. Going along with this, a positive mindset is key.

A player also has to be willing to make other people on the team better. Part of this is coaching each other, giving constructive criticism and encouraging each other when they do something well. It could also be as simple as waiting around while a coach is giving special attention to another player. For volleyball, it is important to never be standing still, because there is always balls to shag or someone to help.

Another aspect of this is being coachable. A player needs to be willing to listen to their coach and try their best to fix their mistakes as they are pointed out to them. At these times, it is important that they are putting in effort to go above just trying their best, and they are actually trying to outdo themselves for the better of their team.

Spartans continue their athletic career in college

STUDENT	COLLEGE ATTENDING:	PLANNED MAJOR:	WHY YOU CHOSE THIS COLLEGE:	POST COLLEGE PLANS WITH YOUR SPORT:	FAVORITE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS MEMORY:
SAVANNAH BUCK (12)	University of Saint Francis	Nursing, then going back for to get my masters or doctorate to be a nurse practicioner.	I really like the coaching staff, their academic programs and the campus is beautiful.	I am not planning on playing professionally after college. I love the game and want to win a championship.	Going on a state run with my team last year. Those are some of the moments I will never forget.
PAIGE EAKRIGHT (12)	Huntington University	Elementary education with a special education minor.	I was looking for a smaller school that was close to home that I could also play volleyball at.	I have always loved volleyball and wanted to continue in college, but I don't see myself playing after college.	The bus rides with my team to all of our away games and tournaments.
KEVIN FREBEL (12)	Kentucky University	Mechanical or biomedical engineering. But who knows nowadays, am I right?	It's an overall great school for athletics, social life, and academics. The basketball games will be lit.	I really want to make it as an SEC champion. It can prepare me for my ultimate goal of the Olympics.	Winning state was exhilirating, but I love spending time with my team and clownin' with them.
ABBY MOORE (12)	Calvin College	Nursing major	The atmosphere is great, and the coaching staff and volleyball program is awesome, as well as their nursing school.	I'm just playing for fun!	My favorite thing is meeting new people and making lifelong friends.
LINDLEY KISTLER (12)	IPFW	Business major	I love the coaching staff and I was their #1 recruit in my grade. My style of play fits into their system.	Hopefully starting as a freshman and helping the team to make it into the NCAA tournament.	Travelling in the summer for a national tournament for a week and winning it all against national teams.
KARISSA MCLAUGHLIN (11)	Florida University	Sports management or sports communication	The coaching staff and players were who I wanted to surround myself with to be the best person possible.	To be the best basketball player possible and play professionally after college, then go into my major.	Going to state is something I won't forget. The loss motivated my teammates and state is our goal.
BETSY SCHROEDER (12)	Huntington University	Undecided, but leaning on majoring in business	It's a small campus and it was so welcoming. I can strengthen my faith every day.	My goal freshman year is to see how far the team can get. I want to become better physically and more importantly, mentally.	Winning the sectional title, and individually placing third overall.

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Girls swim begins new season with new methods

Coaches take lessons from last year, new training groups split swim team

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

A team can not be built with just anyone; it requires individuals with drive, dedication and passion for the sport. In swimming, without a true love for the sport, it's tough to want to participate. However, young and old swimmers alike all have two things in common: fantastic lung support and a desire to compete through a foundation of hard work. Senior Alex Maher (12), a seasoned swim veteran, has reentered the swim community for her final year with refreshed enthusiasm for the sport.

"I decided to swim this year because I swam for 12 years, but then I had to take a year off because of an injury," Maher said. "I decided to return because I love the people on the team and the coaches. My personal goal for this season is to be a good senior and display the best leadership gained from experience(...)I'm going to worry about the team as a whole,"

The girl's swim team began its season a couple weeks ago, and although they haven't had any meets yet, the team appears optimistic about the upcoming season under the guidance of Bobby Mattin, head coach, and Julie Anderson, assistant coach. With a change in coaches, there are also changes in goals. With one season of high school swimming under his belt, Mattin is enthusiastic for the upcoming season.

"I think that that biggest thing I learned last year was that there's a great passion for this sport in this area, which is exciting, and that's part of the reason why I came here from Boston last year," Mattin said. "There's an incredible momentum that's building here as well, so I think the biggest take away from last year is that the potential for this program is limitless, and that includes competing with the best teams in the state, which is exactly what our goal is. So I'm excited that the past season has definitely made my optimism for this year pretty high. The goal is to put the best team in the pool as we possibly can."

The team specifically made changes in the program by promoting more camaraderie as well as goal setting. With the addition of Anderson, the swimmers have received her well, as some even had her in prior years at other swim clubs. Harley Heinerich (11), a member of the team returning for her third year, believes that Anderson will be a great addition to the staff.

"I think the team will improve working with her, especially with the positive mental aspect of swimming. All the rough practices can get discouraging, but Julie always has a positive attitude and does what she can to make sure everyone is having fun," Heinrich said.

Along with new staff comes new coaching methods, Mattin has chosen to divide the swim team into multiple groups based on dedication to the sport of swimming, and he believes that this is a key element to the success of the team this year. In high school, the two main groups of swimmers are called Senior and National Focus.

"What we've done is we really try to cater to every ability level, and more importantly every commitment level" Mattin said. "There are definitely lots of athletes on this team who are looking for next level training and are willing to commit to a tougher schedule, a tougher training regimen and we have a lot of other swimmers who are going to be chasing that goal as well."

National Focus is catered more towards the highly committed people, as they have an attendance requirement that demands approximately 10 practices per week. While the Senior group still puts in several hours of practice a week, it has a less demanding time schedule which means it caters to more swimmers.

With the combination of dedicated coaches as well as swimmers, this year's team is looking to make a big splash in the upcoming season.

"ONCE A SPARTAN ALWAYS A SPARTAN"

High school is a microcosm of life beyond grammar school: students develop networks of friends and teachers; the extracurriculars allow them to have a taste of a career choice; and the homework induces the development of the responsibility students will need in college and the workforce. Students dream of moving onto college, where discernment of matters is left completely to the student, a newfound freedom in the young academics' lives. With all of the options and alternatives ahead of a high school grad, what is the likeliness of one returning to his or her high school for a career? The number of Homestead grads standing at the front of the classroom and monitoring the hallways may surprise you.

Just a few of the Homestead graduates who walk the halls...

TESSA VIRGILIO
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

She teaches in the classroom next to her old French classroom. His former teacher was retiring and told him to apply for the position at his old high school. She participated in the first Dirty Duckers tournament and went to middle school in the freshman academy. These are the teachers and administrators who sat through high school in the same desks you do now, but never had to ask for a charger.

Steve Lake, assistant principal and graduate of 1981, had two passions when entering his collegiate studies and the one he chose to pursue was not education, initially. Within his freshman year at IPFW and his next three years at Ball State, Lake took classes in pursuit of becoming a Park Ranger in a National Park or Conservation officer locally.

"I took two years of criminal justice classes while taking under graduate classes in college," Lake said. "I would be living in Montana or Wyoming – I would not have met my wife of 25 plus years – a completely different life."

After coming to the realization it would be too difficult to find a position in the field, he decided to teach, an occupation a majority of his family had proved to thrive in. Lake's grandfather, three uncles, aunt, father, and four cousins have taken positions as teacher, professor, or principal.

"One of my former teachers at Homestead knew I was a first year teacher in another local school district, and he called me and told me he was retiring and he wanted me to apply for his position," Lake said. "I applied and interviewed for the job and 29 and a half years later I can proudly say once a Spartan always a Spartan."

Brian Nicholson, math teacher and graduate of 1994, shifted gears in his studies as he increasingly discovered what his priorities would be in choosing his occupation. While studying at IPFW, tutoring at the college, and through church involvement, he found great interest in staying local: he was "born and raised in Southwest."

"My first career choice) didn't help people and it didn't take me long to figure that out," Nicholson said. "I was hooked on teaching the first time I was able to make a topic easier for a student to understand and eager to look deeper. Ever since then I have been constantly reminded that I want to teach as I get to know a new group of incredible young adults each year that share that same experience."

When teaching was choice, Nicholson had his sights set on where he learned his high school arithmetic.

"HHS is my home," Nicholson said. "I was born and raised in Southwest and I value the high academic standards that are set in this district. My goal was to be in a school that demanded excellence and HHS was at the top of my list."

For Tisha Bowman, math teacher and graduate of 1993, teaching as a career did not even make the list. For two years of college, Bowman was set on studying to be a veterinarian. However, as a college sophomore in a biology class, she was to dissect a living scorpion while it was anesthetized and would kill it in the study. This brought forth an ethical issue and the concern of ever getting into medical school with a failing grade for a lab she would not complete.

"Therefore, I had to do some soul searching and change my major," Bowman. "It's amazing how one small creature can redefine one's entire life and future."

With a gift for helping others understand math, Bowman was naturally lead in the direction of teaching.

"I tutored many high school and college students when I was a grad student," Bowman said. "I also instructed color guard. When I would have a member's parents calling me saying they couldn't come to practice any more until the student's grade in math was up, I would volunteer to help. That's somewhat how I fell into teaching. I just happened to be offered a job where I was instructing."

She does not think "there was ever a time (she) didn't want to be in school." As fond of the school atmosphere as Alyssa Braman, guidance counselor and graduate of 2006, is, it came as no surprise that she landed in an educational position.

"I changed from wanting to be a teacher to wanting to be a school counselor after I was a camp counselor at Camp Lakewood in high school," Braman said. "I loved working with youth in a more personal way that wasn't in the classroom."

At Indiana University-Bloomington, Braman obtained her bachelor degree in Psychology and then studied at Ball State University to get her master's in School Counseling.

"My first year as a school counselor, I worked at a school in South Bend," Braman said. "I was away from family and really missed Fort Wayne. That winter and spring, I literally checked the Southwest Allen County website for jobs daily. One day, an opening for a school counselor came open. It was a miracle."

Andrew Dunn, Station Manager of WCYT The Point 91 FM and graduate of 2006, brought himself back from Los Angeles to Fort Wayne, IN, where he was a student leader of The Point in high school.

After attending Indiana University and graduating with degrees in Telecommunications, The History of Rock and Roll, and music studies, Dunn saw himself in the coming years "(fighting) for a job, working long hours, trying to find (his) niche or working in a recording studio."

"I was in the middle of an internship with a music promotion company out in Los Angeles when Mr. Schenkel started to get the feeling that my current job could become a possibility," Dunn said. "After the internship was over I came back to Fort Wayne and started working at WOWO (News Talk 92.3 FM) and volunteering for WCYT."

Having put so much of himself into The Point in high school, it seemed natural to return to his media beginnings at the school.

"Many of my friends ask me how I do it, as they had a terrible high school experience, but I enjoyed my time here and I still do," Dunn said.

the SPARTANA

issue four
volume forty five
january 29, 2016
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

INSIDENOW

NEWS
District proposes to renew the 2009 referendum; school environment receives various updates; Senior lounge debunked. 2

LIFE
Scholastic Awards recognize artists and writers with gold, silver and honorable mention keys; Brazilian student begins semester. 4

FEATURE
Show choir Cabaret Night features dancing and singing combined with fund-raising through a silent auction at the event. 8

OPINION
$1.3 billion lottery jackpot questions ethics of young adults; presidential candi-don'ts evaluated before primary voting begins. 3

SPORTS
Girls basketball drops from its number one ranking in the state ahead of post-season; wrestling enters sectionals draw. 7

ONLINE
visit www.hhsspartana.com.
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

www.hhsspartana.com | A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE CLASS OF 2016?

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Writer

The Class of 2016's time is coming to an end. The four years of cliches, drama, notecards and emotional trauma are drawing to a close--at least until the fall of 2016 when the cycle starts all over again. In less than a year, this year's graduating class will be college freshmen leaping into their looming adulthood. Most high school students, including seniors, have worried at some point whether they will face a large change jumping into the world of college; however, with enough effort, determination, studying skills and coffee, it may just be survivable.

Before delving too quickly into the prospects of college, it is important to note that other possibilities exist, including cosmetology schools, enlisting in the military, technical schools, vocational schools, trade schools, apprenticeships and hands-on learning opportunities.

On the road to college, one of the largest benchmarks of progress is the demon in the closet that no one wants to face-the SAT. While the SAT, ACT and SAT II can seem like a terrifying prospect, it can be managed with enough preparation. According to the College Board's website, one of the best ways to manage the task is to simply know the material that may be expected, either by taking the test multiple times or by taking practice tests.

Now that the application process is out of the way, acceptance letters become the next big stepping stone on the road to college. Also comes the debate over what to do freshman year for classes, studying and trying to balance a social life. The best strategy is to try not to get too up in arms about the small things. To be blunt, failures will happen and coping with mistakes is important. Stress and anxiety can even be a helpful thing, inducing motivation and a drive to finish, according to the University of Michigan; however, too much stress can harm emotional health and can lead to bad academic and personal habits. A stressed student might eventually drop out, and to drop out because of stress is avoidable with strategy. According to a survey by the National Alliance of Mental Illness, 64% of students to drop out of college do so because of mental health reasons.

If college is the path that has been chosen, choosing a major is an important part of this path.

"For me, I decided to go into aeronautical engineering technology at Purdue. In Fort Wayne, especially with BAE systems being right here, there are a lot of opportunities in that industry," Erin Hall (12) said.

Having a college degree should ultimately culminate in having a job in that industry, and looking forward to specific job opportunities that mix with interest will be the best way to weigh the options.

"My sort of dream would be to go into NASA designing satellites, so I think that aeronautical engineering technology is a good way to get into that field," Hall said. "Not as many focus on the engineering aspect, which I learned to love from the PLTW girls' engineering class. I also went to a Purdue camp which really helped me decide what I wanted to do."

Looking ahead and anticipating what may arise in the future, attending camps and specific classes within a field may initially help in the deciding of a college major.

Although students can try to devise hundreds of plans, and devise a dozen reactions for every situation that could possibly arise, nobody knows what is actually going to happen in college. Every college freshman will eventually have their breakdowns and their finals week meltdowns. Even though this will almost definitely happen, enjoy the free tee shirts from welcome week.

BY THE NUMBERS

482
pursuing higher education

426
attending 4-year college

56
attending 2-year or vocational school

9
joining the military

GRADUATION

Please note that our graduation exercises will be at night this year. The format will not change, however the time of the event was moved in an effort to keep the ceremony on the weekend. Graduating seniors will be required to be at the Coliseum at 5:30pm on Saturday, June 4 for practice, with graduation starting promptly at 8:00pm. All seating is first come first served with doors open to the public at 7:00pm.

COLLEGE FAIR

On Monday, March 7, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Homestead High School will be hosting its Annual College and Career Fair. We anticipate over 80 four-year universities, two-year colleges, and vocational schools located throughout the United States to be in attendance. We have invited representatives from various careers to participate, as well as the Armed Services and financial institutions. The program is open to the public. One junior or senior student, in attendance, will win a $200.00 scholarship. There is no admission charge.

the SPARTANA

issue four
volume forty five
january 29, 2016
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

INSIDENOW

NEWS
District proposes to renew the 2009 referendum; school environment receives various updates; Senior lounge debunked. 2

LIFE
Scholastic Awards recognize artists and writers with gold, silver and honorable mention keys; Brazilian student begins semester. 4

FEATURE
Show choir Cabaret Night features dancing and singing combined with fund-raising through a silent auction at the event. 8

OPINION
$1.3 billion lottery jackpot questions ethics of young adults; presidential candi-don'ts evaluated before primary voting begins. 3

SPORTS
Girls basketball drops from its number one ranking in the state ahead of post-season; wrestling enters sectionals draw. 7

ONLINE
visit www.hhsspartana.com.
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

www.hhsspartana.com | A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE CLASS OF 2016?

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Writer

The Class of 2016's time is coming to an end. The four years of cliches, drama, notecards and emotional trauma are drawing to a close--at least until the fall of 2016 when the cycle starts all over again. In less than a year, this year's graduating class will be college freshmen leaping into their looming adulthood. Most high school students, including seniors, have worried at some point whether they will face a large change jumping into the world of college; however, with enough effort, determination, studying skills and coffee, it may just be survivable.

Before delving too quickly into the prospects of college, it is important to note that other possibilities exist, including cosmetology schools, enlisting in the military, technical schools, vocational schools, trade schools, apprenticeships and hands-on learning opportunities.

On the road to college, one of the largest benchmarks of progress is the demon in the closet that no one wants to face-the SAT. While the SAT, ACT and SAT II can seem like a terrifying prospect, it can be managed with enough preparation. According to the College Board's website, one of the best ways to manage the task is to simply know the material that may be expected, either by taking the test multiple times or by taking practice tests.

Now that the application process is out of the way, acceptance letters become the next big stepping stone on the road to college. Also comes the debate over what to do freshman year for classes, studying and trying to balance a social life. The best strategy is to try not to get too up in arms about the small things. To be blunt, failures will happen and coping with mistakes is important. Stress and anxiety can even be a helpful thing, inducing motivation and a drive to finish, according to the University of Michigan; however, too much stress can harm emotional health and can lead to bad academic and personal habits. A stressed student might eventually drop out, and to drop out because of stress is avoidable with strategy. According to a survey by the National Alliance of Mental Illness, 64% of students to drop out of college do so because of mental health reasons.

If college is the path that has been chosen, choosing a major is an important part of this path.

"For me, I decided to go into aeronautical engineering technology at Purdue. In Fort Wayne, especially with BAE systems being right here, there are a lot of opportunities in that industry," Erin Hall (12) said.

Having a college degree should ultimately culminate in having a job in that industry, and looking forward to specific job opportunities that mix with interest will be the best way to weigh the options.

"My sort of dream would be to go into NASA designing satellites, so I think that aeronautical engineering technology is a good way to get into that field," Hall said. "Not as many focus on the engineering aspect, which I learned to love from the PLTW girls' engineering class. I also went to a Purdue camp which really helped me decide what I wanted to do."

Looking ahead and anticipating what may arise in the future, attending camps and specific classes within a field may initially help in the deciding of a college major.

Although students can try to devise hundreds of plans, and devise a dozen reactions for every situation that could possibly arise, nobody knows what is actually going to happen in college. Every college freshman will eventually have their breakdowns and their finals week meltdowns. Even though this will almost definitely happen, enjoy the free tee shirts from welcome week.

BY THE NUMBERS

482
pursuing higher education

426
attending 4-year college

56
attending 2-year or vocational school

9
joining the military

GRADUATION

Please note that our graduation exercises will be at night this year. The format will not change, however the time of the event was moved in an effort to keep the ceremony on the weekend. Graduating seniors will be required to be at the Coliseum at 5:30pm on Saturday, June 4 for practice, with graduation starting promptly at 8:00pm. All seating is first come first served with doors open to the public at 7:00pm.

COLLEGE FAIR

On Monday, March 7, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Homestead High School will be hosting its Annual College and Career Fair. We anticipate over 80 four-year universities, two-year colleges, and vocational schools located throughout the United States to be in attendance. We have invited representatives from various careers to participate, as well as the Armed Services and financial institutions. The program is open to the public. One junior or senior student, in attendance, will win a $200.00 scholarship. There is no admission charge.

"ONCE A SPARTAN ALWAYS A SPARTAN"

High school is a microcosm of life beyond grammar school: students develop networks of friends and teachers; the extracurriculars allow them to have a taste of a career choice; and the homework induces the development of the responsibility students will need in college and the workforce. Students dream of moving onto college, where discernment of matters is left completely to the student, a newfound freedom in the young academics' lives. With all of the options and alternatives ahead of a high school grad, what is the likeliness of one returning to his or her high school for a career? The number of Homestead grads standing at the front of the classroom and monitoring the hallways may surprise you.

TESSA VIRGILIO
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

She teaches in the classroom next to her old French classroo
told him to apply for the position at his old high school. She part
nament and went to middle school in the freshman academy. Th
who sat through high school in the same desks you do now, but
for a charger.

Steve Lake, assistant principal and graduate of 1981, had tw
entering his collegiate studies and the one he chose to pursue w
initially. Within his freshman year at IPFW and his next thr
State, Lake took classes in pursuit of becoming a Park Ranger
Park or Conservation officer locally.

"I took two years of criminal justice classes while taking un
graduate classes in college," Lake said. "I would be living in
Montana or Wyoming – I would not have met my wife of 25
plus years – a completely different life."

After coming to the realization it would be too diffi-
cult to find a position in the field, he decided to teach, an
occupation a majority of his family had proved to thrive
in. Lake's grandfather, three uncles, aunt, father, and
four cousins have taken positions as teacher, professor,
or principal.

"One of my former teachers at Homestead knew I was
a first year teacher in another local school district, and
he called me and told me he was retiring and he wanted
me to apply for his position," Lake said. "I applied and
interviewed for the job and 29 and a half years later I can
proudly say once a Spartan always a Spartan."

Brian Nicholson, math teacher and graduate of 1994,
shifted gears in his studies as he increasingly discovered
what his priorities would be in choosing his occupation.
While studying at IPFW, tutoring at the college, and
through church involvement, he found great interest in
staying local: he was "born and raised in Southwest."

"(My first career choice) didn't help people and it didn't take
me long to figure that out," Nicholson said. "I was hooked on tea
the first time I was able to make a topic easier for a student to
and eager to look deeper. Ever since then I have been constant
I want to teach as I get to know a new group of incredible young
share that same experience."

When teaching was choice, Nicholson had his sights set on
arithmetic.

"HHS is my home," Nicholson said. "I was born and raised
demic standards that are set in this district. My goal was to b
and HHS was at the top of my list."

For Tisha Bowman, math teacher and graduate of 1993, tea
list. For two years of college, Bowman was set on studying to
sophomore in a biology class, she was to dissect a living scorpio
kill it in the study. This brought forth an ethical issue and the concern of ever getting into medical school with a failing grade for a lab she would not complete.

"Therefore, I had to do some soul searching and change my major," Bowman. "It's amazing how one small creature can redefine one's entire life and future."

With a gift for helping others understand math, Bowman was naturally lead in the direction of teaching.

"I tutored many high school and college students when I was a grad student," Bowman said. "I also instructed color guard. When I would have a member's parents calling me saying they couldn't come to practice any more until the student's grade in math was up, I would volunteer to help. That's somewhat how I fell into teaching. I just happened to be offered a job where I was instructing."

She attended IPFW, and after studying at Western Oregon University, and Portland State University, she moved back to Fort Wayne and applied to Homestead after having her third baby.

"It's crazy," Bowman said. "My classroom is next to the room I used to take French in from Mr. Kline. The math hall is still where it was when I went here 25 years ago. I had Mr. Winebrenner for Geometry and Mrs. McCombs for AMAT. The fact that they are still here says a lot about the camaraderie of the teachers."

She does not think "there was ever a time (she) didn't want to be in school." As fond of the school atmosphere as Alyssa Braman, guidance counselor and graduate of 2006, is, it came as no surprise that she landed in an educational position.

"I changed from wanting to be a teacher to wanting to be a school counselor after I was a camp counselor at Camp Lakewood in high school," Braman said. "I loved working with youth in a more personal way that wasn't in the classroom."

At Indiana University-Bloomington, Braman obtained her bachelor degree in Psychology and then studied at Ball State University to get her master's in School Counseling.

"My first year as a school counselor, I worked at a school in South Bend," Braman said. "I was away from family and really missed Fort Wayne. That winter and spring, I literally checked the Southwest Allen County website for jobs daily. One day, an opening for a school counselor came open. It was a miracle."

Andrew Dunn, Station Manager of WCYT The Point 91 FM and graduate of 2006, brought himself back from Los Angeles to Fort Wayne, IN, where he was a student leader of The Point in high school.

After attending Indiana University and graduating with degrees in Telecommunications, The History of Rock and Roll, and music studies, Dunn saw himself in the coming years "(fighting) for a job, working long hours, trying to find (his) niche or working in a recording studio."

"I was in the middle of an internship with a music promotion company out in Los Angeles when Mr. Schenkel started to get the feeling that my current job could become a possibility," Dunn said. "After the internship was over I came back to Fort Wayne and started working at WOWO (News Talk 92.3 FM) and volunteering for WCYT."

Having put so much of himself into The Point in high school, it seemed natural to return to his media beginnings at the school.

"Many of my friends ask me how I do it, as they had a terrible high school experience, but I enjoyed my time here and I still do," Dunn said.

Just a few of the Homestead graduates who walk the halls...

"I was hooked on teaching the first time I was able to make a topic easier for a student to understand and eager to look deeper."
-Brian Nicholson, math teacher

NEWS

Referendum up for renewal vote

District budgeting plans for 2017 impacted by May 3 primary ballot

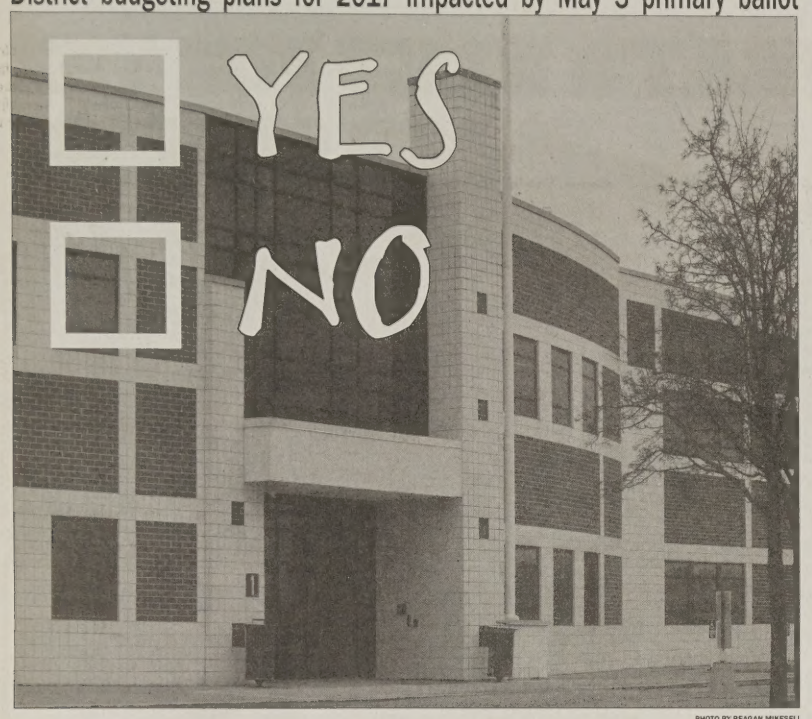


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

If the referendum passes, SACS would jump ranking in terms of funding to 275, instead of 358, out of 363.

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-in-Chief

Out of 363 school districts in the state, Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) is projected to be ranked at 358, in the top bottom two-percent in terms of state funding amounts for the entire year. To combat this, the district has proposed to renew the referendum.

When seniors first heard of the so-called "referendum," they were in fifth grade. Some Girl Scouts troops even held signs encouraging passersby to vote yes. Even then, most know neither what the referendum itself was, nor how it impacted their education.

Simply, the referendum is a tax to property owners within the district, including parts of Aboite and Lafayette Townships, which gives the district $3.5 million to supplement meager state funding. The tax applies to the net assessed value of property after deductions, which may be incurred by senior citizens, homeowners and mortgage holders.

Deductions would lower the assessed values of property for these groups of taxpayers. The current proposed referendum would continue the established levy of .1300, or about 13 cents for every $100 of net assessed property.

A referendum has been in place within the district since 1985. With the 2017 renewal, the funds will be allocated to the General Fund, supporting approximately 52 existing positions within the district.

"Historically, state funding for (SACS) district has been one of the lowest in the state," according to the "Our Referendum Renewal" document available at sacs.k12.in.us.

Every year the Indiana Department of Education gives all public schools a fixed amount of funding based upon the student population. More money is given to schools based upon a district's ratio of low-income students who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

If the referendum were to pass, SACS would jump ranking in terms of funding to 275 out of 363, a 23-percent jump.

"If we didn't have the referendum we would need to cut about 50 staff members and that would be significant across the district," Dr. Phil Downs, superintendent, said. "We would lose some programming at the high school."

Without the referendum funds, the second semester of the 2016-2017 school year will be drastically different. Class sizes will increase as 14.29 full-time teaching positions will no longer be available at the high school level specifically, and certain elective classes would not be available either. Additionally, the district will lose funding to support a school resource officer whose office is housed at the high school.

Should the referendum not receive a majority vote, the district will have the opportunity to re-vote on an altered proposal the following year.

> "If we didn't have the referendum we would need to cut about 50 staff members and that would be significant across the district."
>
> **DR. PHIL DOWNS**
> *SACS Superintendent*

Voting for the 2017 referendum will take place during the May 3 ballot. Registered voters over the age of 18 are eligible to vote, but some younger students may be eligible to decide on the referendum, too.

"17 year olds who turn 18 before the November election are allowed to vote," Downs elaborated. "You can vote in the primary election in May. I was one of those 17 year old kids who got to do that. If you don't want to participate in either party's primary, you can show up and just vote on the referendum."

Additional information is available online at sacs.k12.in.us, the district homepage, as well as Official Southwest Allen County Schools' YouTube channel and @YESforSACS on Twitter.

New year, new...

BY MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor

Carpets

Over winter break, the school replaced the carpeting in two hallways. Park Ginder, principal, discussed the reasoning behind the replacement.

"A lot of the carpet (repair) comes down to what can you afford and how bad (the current carpet) looks and what needs to be done," Ginder said.

Ginder explained that the sections of carpet replaced were leftovers from other carpeting projects at schools around the district.

"The carpet that we had (is) what carpenters call 'attic stock,'" Ginder said.

The timing and funding made it possible to improve the carpeting over winter break.

Signs

Recently, the school implemented signs to direct visitors and new students to restrooms and the freshman academy.

"We've had a lot of positive comments from students and from parents who visit," Ginder said. "(On) eighth grade parent night, there were comments about it."

Ginder added that there are more signs are coming to assist students and visitors in navigating around the school.

"We've actually got a second set of signs coming," Ginder said. "So you're going to start to see a few more in different places."

Furnishings

The school recently purchased new tripods for video announcements, as well as new chairs and locks for the gym.

The school's different departments have separate funds that allow them to replace furnishings when it is necessary, such as the athletic department purchasing chairs and locks.

"The school... has what are called capital projects funds, and that's how you buy or replace anything, from a desk to the carpet... to the tripods," Ginder said.

Plans

Ginder emphasized that there are more changes to come in the near future.

"We're always trying to spend money on things that are useful and serve a purpose," Ginder said.

He explained that students who return to the school after they graduate sometimes find certain classrooms or hallways unrecognizable, but that is "part of keeping (the school) up to standard."

The school has a rolling five-year plan, meaning the funding for renovations is planned five years before the change is implemented. As of now, the administration is planning out funding for the year 2020.

"We try to project out as far as we can," Ginder said. "As needs arise, you put new line items in for those years, and sometimes you have to subtract things out."

Some of the changes that were planned for this year will occur over summer break and may go unnoticed by most students.

"Some of the things that are new have been planned for years," Ginder said.

As for changes coming soon, according to Ginder, there are plans "to do a lot of things with the athletic hallway," as well as a student government plan to "beautify the hallways" in an effort "to spruce things up." Students can also look forward to new laptops next school year.

DEBUNKED!

Myth: There are plans for a student lounge open to seniors

Status: True!

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

This year introduced the first full year of the senior experience program, allowing seniors to take block-style classes on alternating days of the week in an attempt to mimic a college schedule. However, there is also a plan for a lounge to be built in the academy for senior experience students who have periods off.

The plan is to convert the old 6th grade wing of the academy, which is currently carpeted and sealed off from normal students, into a student lounge area, stocked with a coffee machine, televisions, faster internet and more. This area would be for students who have third and fourth period free, but are already at school. It would also connect to a separated parking lot only for senior experience students so that they can come after first period and not deal with finding parking in the full parking lot. Students in the senior experience would also be given key cards which allow only those students to have access into the lounge area.

Steve Lake, assistant principal, and Park Ginder, principal, have spent hours discussing plans for the lounge, and they've even had an architect examine the section where the lounge would be located, but the topic has not yet been presented to the school board. Therefore, the lounge may not exist for two years at the minimum. The idea exists, but by the time the lounge is built, the school may be an entirely different place.

Do you have a rumor to dis prove or a myth to debunk? Send any suspicious leads to thespartana@gmail.com with a subject line "POSSIBLE DEBUNKED", and your questions might be answered next issue.

OPINION

$1.3 billion lotto jackpot entices 18-year-olds

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

The odds of winning the $1.5 billion dollar record Powerball jackpot on Jan. 13 were one in 292.2 million, and I, Katie Maher, high school student, was determined to win it.

Peers in class were already aware of my predisposition to playing the lottery twice a week, and as the nation was swept away with Powerball fever, the dogmatic question was thrown at me at an exponentially higher rate than the usual in the classroom.

Every talk show, magazine and classroom pegged, "What would YOU do with a billion dollars?" Now, nineteen year old Jay Vargas, the youngest lottery winner in the United States, blew all of his $17 million payout instantly. But I am not Jay Vargas.

The trend tends to be that young jackpot winners are quite careless with their winning payout. But I know my money will be spent responsibly on an RV, soft sweaters and funding my first album as a teen-pop sensation.

I admit fully with honest truth, no one needs $1.5 billion. I struggle with the responsibility to brush my hair on a daily basis, so the immense amount of riches is too high a commitment to me. To take the stress off me, and do the right thing, over half of my winnings would go to charities. To open hundreds of animal sanctuaries is at the top of my personal agenda, along with a large donation to organic farmers.

The best power of the type of wealth the jackpot offers is the power to make positive changes in the world and help others.

Now, to explain the RV. Even as a billionaire, craigslist is the way to go. I need an RV to travel in for my world tour for my first album as a teen-pop sensation I mentioned earlier.

Yes, this notion to buy an RV would be for myself rather than a charity; however, Katie Maher entering the pop scene is definitely under the category of "make positive changes in the world." Winning the Powerball should be all about giving back.

Furthermore, at least a million would go to the purchase of soft sweaters. To explain why soft sweaters are essential to any jackpot winner would be pointless. The world population collectively knows soft sweaters are wonderful and loves them.

I guess at the end, I know I do not need much money. I just need my dreams to fund a fulfilling life. I can fight my way to the top of the teen pop charts, rather than buying my way. I can buy sweaters with a regular job, with money I earned.

The saddest part of the Powerball frenzy is hearing peers talk about that if they won the Powerball, then they would live their dreams. Though no high school student won big on the Jan. 13 drawing, several students talk of now wanting to play regularly for a chance to win.

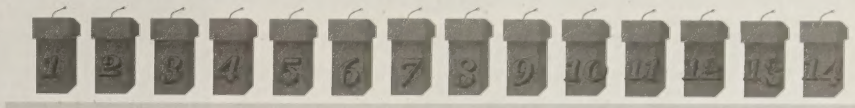
The only advice I stress every reader to take is to start living your dreams now; do not wait to match a few numbers to live your dreams.

While the lottery is great, do not miss the opportunities and the abundance of life available now.

THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CANDI-DON'Ts

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

As the Primaries approach for the 2016 presidential race, many students have the opportunity to vote for the next president of th US. In the Indiana Primary, which is on May 3, voters will declare one party, Republican or Democrat, and select one candidate fro that party to be the nominee. Although the Indiana Primary is three months away, other states begin their Primaries in early Februar and it is important for students to know who is running, since many will be dropping out soon. The following is a comedic review of th 14 people currently running for the presidency. Most of the analysis is meant to be funny, but none of it is purposely untrue. Only tw can be the nominees, so choose wisely...



Donald Trump *(Dollar Grump)*
Party: Republican, but he scares most of his own party
Strengths: Business/economic experience; aggressive policy; confidence; pays for his own campaign; thinks he can pull off that haircut
Flaws: Semi-fascist ideas; no political experience; can't pull off that haircut; bad people skills; no "inside voice"; poor spray-tan skills; hates the media, disabled, immigrants and everyone who isn't white, rich, heterosexual, Christian or male, including you, since you're reading a newspaper right now
Yeah, he said this: "I think the only difference between me and the other candidates is that I'm more honest and my women are more beautiful."

Ted Cruz *(Teddy Cruisin')*
Party: Republican, unless the party disowns him
Strengths: Well-liked by evangelicals; good foreign policy; son of Cuban immigrant; well-funded; portrayed as underdog; perfect last name for that cruising/cruzing joke
Flaws: Hasn't attacked Trump, which may be weakness or building a future partnership; started at bottom (now he's here); victory hinges on Trump supporters flocking to him; born in Canada, which brings up natural-born citizen rule;
Yeah, he said this: "If you want someone to grab a beer with, I may not be that guy. But if you want someone to drive you home, I will get the job done."

Marco Rubio *(Marble-cake Rutabaga)*
Party: Republican, but most Democrats like him, too.
Strengths: Cuban ancestry; interventional foreign policy; promotes trade schools; would rather be a parent than a president
Flaws: Impatient; still needs to overcome Cruz; makes jokes about California drought; not very aggressive
Yeah, he said this: "The only people who follow the law are law-abiding people."

Ben Carson *(Bank Martian)*
Party: Republican, but they want him more than he wants them
Strengths: Successful pediatric neurosurgeon; grassroot conservative; earned his way out of poverty; cares strongly about children; personable; we needed another Hermain Cain (and he delivered)
Flaws: Can't do math; religious to the point his common sense suffers; thinks the Egyptian Pyramids stored grain instead of dead pharaohs; no political experience; it's uncertain if he even wants to be president;
Yeah, he said this: "Whose financial plan would God enforce?"

Chris Christie *(Big Fistie)*
Party: Republic Republican
Strengths: Moderate; politically experienced; Shaq has his back; not afraid to embarrass himself; "dad danced" with Jimmy Fallon
Flaws: Loud mouth; seemingly abandoned by the rest of the party; unlikable vibe; has been described as a "bully"; Bridgegate scandal
Yeah, he said that: "When do you stop the man-hug? It's hard."

Jeb Bush *(Jeb?)*
Party: Republican, aka "New Term, New President Bush"
Strengths: Son of George H. W. Bush, Brother of George W. Bush (both former presidents); political experience; bilingual, thanks to hispanic wife; short campaign slogan
Flaws: Impatient; weak campaigning; low energy; refuses to announce his identity as "Florida Man"; mostly supported by Wall Street donors; do we need a third President Bush?
Yeah, he said this: "40 years ago I smoked marijuana, and I admit it...my mom's not happy."

Rand Paul *(Bland Fall)*
Party: Republican, but the Tea Party wants him more
Strengths: strong with financial policies; libertarian; represents midwest; son of Ron Paul, who was almost nominee in 2012; looks like Peter Capaldi; he's an ophthalmalogist?
Flaws: Almost less interesting than his father; no political momentum; was dropped to the second tier in January's debate, and then refused to attend; when I see him, I always think "Discount Rand Paul" and am surprised when he's the real guy
Yeah, he said this: "I'm being unfairly attacked by a bunch of hacks and haters."

Carly Fiorina *(Hurricane Fiorina)*
Party: Republican, but the angry kind
Strengths: business experience as CEO of Hewlitt-Packard; she's the new Michele Bachman, who was the new Sarah Palin, who we never really needed; knows what she wants; wants to simplify tax code (down to three pages, apparently); increase military strength; search "Hot Air: The Movie" on YouTube
Flaws: angry; very hastily militaristic; was fired from CEO position; has been dropped from first-tier debate stage in January debate; my mom says she looks like Princess Fiona; lost Senate race in 2010; search "Demon Sheep" on YouTube
Yeah, she said this: "One of the first things I would do (as President) is bring back the warrior class."

John Kasich *(Just Basic)*
Party: Republican, but he's pretty good with Democrats, too
Strengths: represents midwest; pretty moderate; able to attract both Republicans and Democrats; pretty great at debates, for what little he speaks; can build a balanced budget; realizes how crazy the other candidates are; my dad likes him
Flaws: doesn't have enough attention to likely win, but has stayed on first-tier debate stage all campaign; barely called upon to speak at debates; hated Fargo; tried to get his Blockbuster to ban Fargo; once went to a Blockbuster
Yeah, he said this: "Frankly, it's time we punched the Russians in the nose."

Mike Huckabee *(Spike Bumblebee)*
Party: Not just Republican, but Fox News Republican
Strengths: conservative; strong values; evangelical; sometimes funny jokes; informed about Middle East
Flaws: all evangelical support has flocked to Cruz; wife is usually the butt of his jokes; dissed Beyoncé and Jay Z on their marriage, calling Jay Z a "pimp"
Yeah, he said this: "The military is not a social experiment.The purpose of the military is kill people and break things.

Rick Santorum *(Slick Tantrum)*
Party: Republican, but only the 2012 Republican party
Strengths: conservative; financially decent; almost won nomination in 2012; senate experience
Flaws: the party has changed in four years, but he has not; DO NOT GOOGLE "santorum definition"; doesn't get respect he feels he deserves; has compared same-sex marriage to 9/11
Yeah, he said this: "President Obama wants everybody in America to go to college. What a snob."

Martin O'Malley *(Partin' the Valley)*
Party: Democratic, but it's a one-sided relationship
Strengths: progressive; muscular; was mayor of Baltimore; familiar with ancestral Irish discrimination in US; could actually beat Putin in a fight; catholic uprising that helps with Republican voters; he plays in a Celtic rock band named O'Malley's March;
Flaws: Can't gain momentum despite sharing beliefs of most Democratic voters; was not a very good mayor of Baltimore; his campaign will probably lead him to the vice presidency, but no further
Yeah, he said this: "The world is a very dangerous place, but it is not too dangerous of a place for the United States of America."

Hillary Clinton
(Chillary the "Cool" Grandma)
Party: Democratic, and she's hosting the party
Strengths: Experience as senator, secretary of state, and first lady; Wall Street funded; her campaign remains warm since 2008; strong supporter of gender equality; foreign policy experience; dominates liberal media; son-in-law is Jewish
Flaws: email scandal during time as senator; Benghazi; Bill Clinton's scandal still casts a shadow on her campaign; the bathroom inside joke from October debate; pantsuits?
Yeah, she said this: "You can always tell when the Republicans are getting restless, because the Vice President's motorcade pulls into the Capitol, and Darth Vader emerges."

Bernie Sander *("Just Can't Stand"ers)*
Party: Democratic, but he was an independent in the senate
Strengths: Jewish; supports $15 minimum wage and free college tuition; financial policy to break up Wall Street banks; has awesome slogans like "Feel the Bern"; has a Ben and Jerry's flavor that requires you to "break up" the large chocolate pieces; almost never attacks other candidates
Flaws: he's a democratic socialist, which leads people to emphasis "socialist," despite being different; extremely left, almost the anti-Trump; most news outlets refuse to cover him; most support comes from teens and young adults, most of whom can't or don't vote; makes few outrageous/hilarious comments
Yeah, he said this: "Ben is a person; Jerry is a person; Ben and Jerry's is not a person."

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
TESSA VIRGILIO

COPY EDITOR
ETHAN ZWEIG

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

ONLINE EDITOR
Adam Swiatkowski

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

ADVISER
Terri Nowak

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Pawandeep Bola
Yana Weir

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Kiilham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members supports the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

Referendum up for renewal vote

District budgeting plans for 2017 impacted by May 3 primary ballot

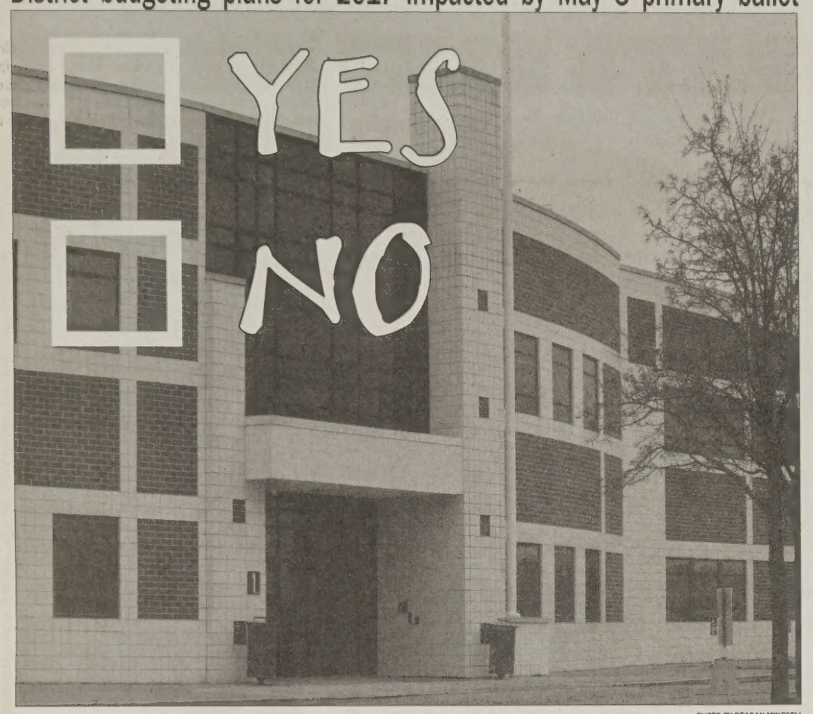


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

If the referendum passes, SACS would jump ranking in terms of funding to 275, instead of 358, out of 363.

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-in-Chief

Out of 363 school districts in the state, Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) is projected to be ranked at 358, in the top bottom two-percent in terms of state funding amounts for the entire year. To combat this, the district has proposed to renew the referendum.

When seniors first heard of the so-called "referendum," they were in fifth grade. Some Girl Scouts troops even held signs encouraging passersby to vote yes. Even then, most know neither what the referendum itself was, nor how it impacted their education.

Simply, the referendum is a tax to property owners within the district, including parts of Aboite and Lafayette Townships, which gives the district $3.5 million to supplement meager state funding. The tax applies to the net assessed value of property after deductions, which may be incurred by senior citizens, homeowners and mortgage holders.

Deductions would lower the assessed values of property for these groups of taxpayers. The current proposed referendum would continue the established levy of .1300, or about 13 cents for every $100 of net assessed property.

A referendum has been in place within the district since 1985. With the 2017 renewal, the funds will be allocated to the General Fund, supporting approximately 52 existing positions within the district.

"Historically, state funding for (SACS) district has been one of the lowest in the state," according to the "Our Referendum Renewal" document available at sacs.k12.in.us.

Every year the Indiana Department of Education gives all public schools a fixed amount of funding based upon the student population. More money is given to schools based upon a district's ratio of low-income students who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

If the referendum were to pass, SACS would jump ranking in terms of funding to 275 out of 363, a 23-percent jump.

"If we didn't have the referendum we would need to cut about 50 staff members and that would be significant across the district," Dr. Phil Downs, superintendent, said. "We would lose some programming at the high school."

Without the referendum funds, the second semester of the 2016-2017 school year will be drastically different. Class sizes will increase as 14.29 full-time teaching positions will no longer be available at the high school level specifically, and certain elective classes would not be available either. Additionally, the district will lose funding to support a school resource officer whose office is housed at the high school.

Should the referendum not receive a majority vote, the district will have the opportunity to re-vote on an altered proposal the following year.

> "If we didn't have the referendum we would need to cut about 50 staff members and that would be significant across the district."
>
> **DR. PHIL DOWNS**
> *SACS Superintendent*

Voting for the 2017 referendum will take place during the May 3 ballot. Registered voters over the age of 18 are eligible to vote, but some younger students may be eligible to decide on the referendum, too.

"17 year olds who turn 18 before the November election are allowed to vote," Downs elaborated. "You can vote in the primary election in May. I was one of those 17 year old kids who got to do that. If you don't want to participate in either party's primary, you can show up and just vote on the referendum."

Additional information is available online at sacs.k12.in.us, the district homepage, as well as Official Southwest Allen County Schools' YouTube channel and @YESforSACS on Twitter.

New year, new...

BY MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor

Carpets

Over winter break, the school replaced the carpeting in two hallways. Park Ginder, principal, discussed the reasoning behind the replacement.

"A lot of the carpet (repair) comes down to what can you afford and how bad (the current carpet) looks and what needs to be done," Ginder said.

Ginder explained that the sections of carpet replaced were leftovers from other carpeting projects at schools around the district.

"The carpet that we had (is) what carpenters call 'attic stock,'" Ginder said.

The timing and funding made it possible to improve the carpeting over winter break.

Signs

Recently, the school implemented signs to direct visitors and new students to restrooms and the freshman academy.

"We've had a lot of positive comments from students and from parents who visit," Ginder said. "(On) eighth grade parent night, there were comments about it."

Ginder added that there are more signs are coming to assist students and visitors in navigating around the school.

"We've actually got a second set of signs coming," Ginder said. "So you're going to start to see a few more in different places."

Furnishings

The school recently purchased new tripods for video announcements, as well as new chairs and locks for the gym.

The school's different departments have separate funds that allow them to replace furnishings when it is necessary, such as the athletic department purchasing chairs and locks.

"The school... has what are called capital projects funds, and that's how you buy or replace anything, from a desk to the carpet... to the tripods," Ginder said.

Plans

Ginder emphasized that there are more changes to come in the near future.

"We're always trying to spend money on things that are useful and serve a purpose," Ginder said.

He explained that students who return to the school after they graduate sometimes find certain classrooms or hallways unrecognizable, but that is "part of keeping (the school) up to standard."

The school has a rolling five-year plan, meaning the funding for renovations is planned five years before the change is implemented. As of now, the administration is planning out funding for the year 2020.

"We try to project out as far as we can," Ginder said. "As needs arise, you put new line items in for those years, and sometimes you have to subtract things out."

Some of the changes that were planned for this year will occur over summer break and may go unnoticed by most students.

"Some of the things that are new have been planned for years," Ginder said.

As for changes coming soon, according to Ginder, there are plans "to do a lot of things with the athletic hallway," as well as a student government plan to "beautify the hallways" in an effort "to spruce things up." Students can also look forward to new laptops next school year.

DEBUNKED!

Myth: There are plans for a student lounge open to seniors
Status: True!

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

This year introduced the first full year of the senior experience program, allowing seniors to take block-style classes on alternating days of the week in an attempt to mimic a college schedule. However, there is also a plan for a lounge to be built in the academy for senior experience students who have periods off.

The plan is to convert the old 6th grade wing of the academy, which is currently carpeted and sealed off from normal students, into a student lounge area, stocked with a coffee machine, televisions, faster internet and more. This area would be for students who have third and fourth period free, but are already at school. It would also connect to a separated parking lot only for senior experience students so that they can come after first period and not deal with finding parking in the full parking lot. Students in the senior experience would also be given key cards which allow only those students to have access into the lounge area.

Steve Lake, assistant principal, and Park Ginder, principal, have spent hours discussing plans for the lounge, and they've even had an architect examine the section where the lounge would be located, but the topic has not yet been presented to the school board. Therefore, the lounge may not exist for two years at the minimum. The idea exists, but by the time the lounge is built, the school may be an entirely different place.

Do you have a rumor to dis prove or a myth to debunk? Send any suspicious leads to thespartana@gmail.com with a subject line "POSSIBLE DEBUNKED", and your questions might be answered next issue.

$1.3 billion lotto jackpot entices 18-year-olds

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

The odds of winning the $1.5 billion dollar record Powerball jackpot on Jan. 13 were one in 292.2 million, and I, Katie Maher, high school student, was determined to win it.

Peers in class were already aware of my predisposition to playing the lottery twice a week, and as the nation was swept away with Powerball fever, the dogmatic question was thrown at me at an exponentially higher rate than the usual in the classroom.

Every talk show, magazine and classroom pegged, "What would YOU do with a billion dollars?" Now, nineteen year old Jay Vargas, the youngest lottery winner in the United States, blew all of his $17 million payout instantly. But I am not Jay Vargas.

The trend tends to be that young jackpot winners are quite careless with their winning payout. But I know my money will be spent responsibly on an RV, soft sweaters and funding my first album as a teen-pop sensation.

I admit fully with honest truth, no one needs $1.5 billion. I struggle with the responsibility to brush my hair on a daily basis, so the immense amount of riches is too high a commitment to me. To take the stress off me, and do the right thing, over half of my winnings would go to charities. To open hundreds of animal sanctuaries is at the top of my personal agenda, along with a large donation to organic farmers.

The best power of the type of wealth the jackpot offers is the power to make positive changes in the world and help others.

Now, to explain the RV. Even as a billionaire, craigslist is the way to go. I need an RV to travel in for my world tour for my first album as a teen-pop sensation I mentioned earlier.

Yes, this notion to buy an RV would be for myself rather than a charity; however, Katie Maher entering the pop scene is definitely under the category of "make positive changes in the world." Winning the Powerball should be all about giving back.

Furthermore, at least a million would go to the purchase of soft sweaters. To explain why soft sweaters are essential to any jackpot winner would be pointless. The world population collectively knows soft sweaters are wonderful and loves them.

I guess at the end, I know I do not need much money. I just need my dreams to fund a fulfilling life. I can fight my way to the top of the teen pop charts, rather than buying my way. I can buy sweaters with a regular job, with money I earned.

The saddest part of the Powerball frenzy is hearing peers talk about that if they won the Powerball, then they would live their dreams. Though no high school student won big on the Jan. 13 drawing, several students talk of now wanting to play regularly for a chance to win.

The only advice I stress every reader to take is to start living your dreams now; do not wait to match a few numbers to live your dreams.

While the lottery is great, do not miss the opportunities and the abundance of life available now.

THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CANDI-DON'Ts

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

As the Primaries approach for the 2016 presidential race, many students have the opportunity to vote for the next president of th US. In the Indiana Primary, which is on May 3, voters will declare one party, Republican or Democrat, and select one candidate fro that party to be the nominee. Although the Indiana Primary is three months away, other states begin their Primaries in early Februar and it is important for students to know who is running, since many will be dropping out soon. The following is a comedic review of th 14 people currently running for the presidency. Most of the analysis is meant to be funny, but none of it is purposely untrue. Only tw can be the nominees, so choose wisely...

Donald Trump *(Dollar Grump)*
Party: Republican, but he scares most of his own party
Strengths: Business/economic experience; aggressive policy; confidence; pays for his own campaign; thinks he can pull off that haircut
Flaws: Semi-fascist ideas; no political experience; can't pull off that haircut; bad people skills; no "inside voice"; poor spray-tan skills; hates the media, disabled, immigrants and everyone who isn't white, rich, heterosexual, Christian or male, including you, since you're reading a newspaper right now
Yeah, he said this: "I think the only difference between me and the other candidates is that I'm more honest and my women are more beautiful."

Ted Cruz *(Teddy Cruisin')*
Party: Republican, unless the party disowns him
Strengths: Well-liked by evangelicals; good foreign policy; son of Cuban immigrant; well-funded; portrayed as underdog; perfect last name for that cruising/cruzing joke
Flaws: Hasn't attacked Trump, which may be weakness or building a future partnership; started at bottom (now he's here); victory hinges on Trump supporters flocking to him; born in Canada, which brings up natural-born citizen rule;
Yeah, he said this: "If you want someone to grab a beer with, I may not be that guy. But if you want someone to drive you home, I will get the job done."

Marco Rubio *(Marble-cake Rutabaga)*
Party: Republican, but most Democrats like him, too.
Strengths: Cuban ancestry; interventional foreign policy; promotes trade schools; would rather be a parent than a president
Flaws: Impatient; still needs to overcome Cruz; makes jokes about California drought; not very aggressive
Yeah, he said this: "The only people who follow the law are law-abiding people."

Ben Carson *(Bank Martian)*
Party: Republican, but they want him more than he wants them
Strengths: Successful pediatric neurosurgeon; grassroot conservative; earned his way out of poverty; cares strongly about children; personable; we needed another Hermain Cain (and he delivered)
Flaws: Can't do math; religious to the point his common sense suffers; thinks the Egyptian Pyramids stored grain instead of dead pharaohs; no political experience; it's uncertain if he even wants to be president;
Yeah, he said this: "Whose financial plan would God enforce?"

Chris Christie *(Big Fistie)*
Party: Republic Republican
Strengths: Moderate; politically experienced; Shaq has his back; not afraid to embarrass himself; "dad danced" with Jimmy Fallon
Flaws: Loud mouth; seemingly abandoned by the rest of the party; unlikable vibe; has been described as a "bully"; Bridgegate scandal
Yeah, he said that: "When do you stop the man-hug? It's hard."

Jeb Bush *(Jeb?)*
Party: Republican, aka "New Term, New President Bush"
Strengths: Son of George H. W. Bush, Brother of George W. Bush (both former presidents); political experience; bilingual, thanks to hispanic wife; short campaign slogan
Flaws: Impatient; weak campaigning; low energy; refuses to announce his identity as "Florida Man"; mostly supported by Wall Street donors; do we need a third President Bush?
Yeah, he said this: "40 years ago I smoked marijuana, and I admit it...my mom's not happy."

Rand Paul *(Bland Fall)*
Party: Republican, but the Tea Party wants him more
Strengths: strong with financial policies; libertarian; represents midwest; son of Ron Paul, who was almost nominee in 2012; looks like Peter Capaldi; he's an ophthalmalogist?
Flaws: Almost less interesting than his father; no political momentum; was dropped to the second tier in January's debate, and then refused to attend; when I see him, I always think "Discount Rand Paul" and am surprised when he's the real guy
Yeah, he said this: "I'm being unfairly attacked by a bunch of hacks and haters."

Carly Fiorina *(Hurricane Fiorina)*
Party: Republican, but the angry kind
Strengths: business experience as CEO of Hewlitt-Packard; she's the new Michele Bachman, who was the new Sarah Palin, who we never really needed; knows what she wants; wants to simplify tax code (down to three pages, apparently); increase military strength; search "Hot Air: The Movie" on YouTube
Flaws: angry; very hastily militaristic; was fired from CEO position; has been dropped from first-tier debate stage in January debate; my mom says she looks like Princess Fiona; lost Senate race in 2010; search "Demon Sheep" on YouTube
Yeah, she said this: "One of the first things I would do (as President) is bring back the warrior class."

John Kasich *(Just Basic)*
Party: Republican, but he's pretty good with Democrats, too
Strengths: represents midwest; pretty moderate; able to attract both Republicans and Democrats; pretty great at debates, for what little he speaks; can build a balanced budget; realizes how crazy the other candidates are; my dad likes him
Flaws: doesn't have enough attention to likely win, but has stayed on first-tier debate stage all campaign; barely called upon to speak at debates; hated Fargo; tried to get his Blockbuster to ban Fargo; once went to a Blockbuster
Yeah, he said this: "Frankly, it's time we punched the Russians in the nose."

Mike Huckabee *(Spike Bumblebee)*
Party: Not just Republican, but Fox News Republican
Strengths: conservative; strong values; evangelical; sometimes funny jokes; informed about Middle East
Flaws: all evangelical support has flocked to Cruz; wife is usually the butt of his jokes; dissed Beyoncé and Jay Z on their marriage, calling Jay Z a "pimp"
Yeah, he said this: "The military is not a social experiment.The purpose of the military is kill people and break things.

Rick Santorum *(Slick Tantrum)*
Party: Republican, but only the 2012 Republican party
Strengths: conservative; financially decent; almost won nomination in 2012; senate experience
Flaws: the party has changed in four years, but he has not; DO NOT GOOGLE "santorum definition"; doesn't get respect he feels he deserves; has compared same-sex marriage to 9/11
Yeah, he said this: "President Obama wants everybody in America to go to college. What a snob."

Martin O'Malley *(Partin' the Valley)*
Party: Democratic, but it's a one-sided relationship
Strengths: progressive; muscular; was mayor of Baltimore; familiar with ancestral Irish discrimination in US; could actually beat Putin in a fight; catholic uprising that helps with Republican voters; he plays in a Celtic rock band named O'Malley's March;
Flaws: Can't gain momentum despite sharing beliefs of most Democratic voters; was not a very good mayor of Baltimore; his campaign will probably lead him to the vice presidency, but no further
Yeah, he said this: "The world is a very dangerous place, but it is not too dangerous of a place for the United States of America."

Hillary Clinton
(Chillary the "Cool" Grandma)
Party: Democratic, and she's hosting the party
Strengths: Experience as senator, secretary of state, and first lady; Wall Street funded; her campaign remains warm since 2008; strong supporter of gender equality; foreign policy experience; dominates liberal media; son-in-law is Jewish
Flaws: email scandal during time as senator; Benghazi; Bill Clinton's scandal still casts a shadow on her campaign; the bathroom inside joke from October debate; pantsuits?
Yeah, she said this: "You can always tell when the Republicans are getting restless, because the Vice President's motorcade pulls into the Capitol, and Darth Vader emerges."

Bernie Sander *("Just Can't Stand"ers)*
Party: Democratic, but he was an independent in the senate
Strengths: Jewish; supports $15 minimum wage and free college tuition; financial policy to break up Wall Street banks; has awesome slogans like "Feel the Bern"; has a Ben and Jerry's flavor that requires you to "break up" the large chocolate pieces; almost never attacks other candidates
Flaws: he's a democratic socialist, which leads people to emphasis "socialist," despite being different; extremely left, almost the anti-Trump; most news outlets refuse to cover him; most support comes from teens and young adults, most of whom can't or don't vote; makes few outrageous/hilarious comments
Yeah, he said this: "Ben is a person; Jerry is a person; Ben and Jerry's is not a person."

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
TESSA VIRGILIO

COPY EDITOR
ETHAN ZWEIG

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

ONLINE EDITOR
Adam Swiatkowski

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

ADVISER
Terri Nowak

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Pawandeep Bola
Yana Weir

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members supports the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

designed by awbrei vachon

LIFE

SCHOLASTICS ART AND WRITING AWARDS

A look at REGIONALS

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

Scholastics has been a well-known name since the ages of learning how to tie shoelaces and write the alphabet; students lit up when the Scholastic fair came to the library and the many books and knick-knacks were displayed for all to gaze upon. Back then, the term "Scholastics" might as well have been synonymous to "book fair," but nowadays, students know Scholastics to also run an art and writing contest at the start of each year for students grade seven to 12, and this year is no exception.

Contributing students put a lot of work into their pieces before taking a leap of hope and submitting them to the Scholastics competition, but the processing following submissions involving judging is also extensive.

After weeks and months of work, students finally uploaded their pieces to the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards website on Jan. 13, hoping for positive feedback in the weeks to come. From there, volunteers met at the Fort Wayne Museum of art the following Saturday, Jan. 16, to judge pieces and decide regional award winners as well as finalists for the national round of the competition.

Sarah Jones, art teacher, has been volunteering each year for the past 12 years with Scholastics as a facilitator and has seen exactly how the judging process works. The judging is divided up between writing and art, and then the art section is further divided up into 2D and 3D art. At each station, three judges discuss and vote on every piece.

"I facilitate the judging (for) the 2D station," Jones said. "There's basically like a really awesome, big, nice, clear TV, and I help digitally (by showing) them kind of a preview of all the images, and then we sort them out based on what their response is."

As each images flips across the big screen, the three judges, consisting of primarily local professors and artists, discuss their thoughts on the pieces and whether or not they will be considered for one of the three regional awards.

"They have a little red or green card, and so green says 'yes,' red says 'no,' and as they look at the images on the screen, they kind of flip their card yes or no, and then based on if there were three greens or two greens or only one green, we kind of sort them out," Jones said.

The judges have a certain criteria they are looking for in student art, which may surprise some individuals.

"Scholastics is pretty particular about the type of work that they give awards to, and the number one thing they're looking for is personal vision or voice, like evidence that this is beyond a class project, originality also, and technique is low-man on the totem pole," Jones said.

Despite technique being a bit less important, Scholastics still does not make it easy to get an award.

"I don't like to teach to a competition, I tell students that it's like buying a lottery ticket, but it's a chance for a professional to look at their work," Jones said. "(And) the judging is definitely subjective, they have guidelines but they still have their own sense of aesthetics and what's interesting and beautiful to them that they're bringing to the table."

The region Fort Wayne is a part of spans across much of northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio, and those who live farther will mail in their forms and payment or have volunteers travel down to deliver them.

"Our region has actually been in the top five of the entire United States for like the past five years, which is pretty incredible," Jones said. "We've beat out big cities like LA, and Chicago, we didn't beat New York, but some of those big metropolitan areas that you would assume would be having a lot of variety in entries, but this little po-dunk country area in Indiana (beat them)."

Winners at the regional level have been notified, and those who received Gold Keys will proceed to the national level. The regional awards will be held Feb. 14 at the Grand Wayne Center, and come march, the Scholastics Art and Writing Awards will announce national winners.

"I think it's a really wonderful opportunity for kids, but I also think I don't want kids to get their hearts broken either, because it's really hard to put yourself out there,"Jones said. "That's the downfall of the competition -- when they don't win when I think they're very deserving of it."

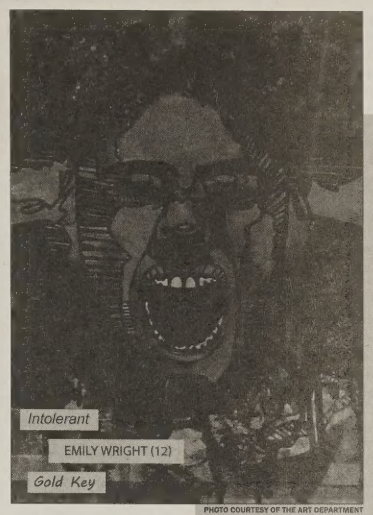


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

"(At) my old school, we didn't really submit stuff to Scholastics -- very few people did. It makes me more nervous; I don't want my confidence to go down because I'm hoping I can pursue a career in art. Plus it's always kind of been my goal to get a Gold Key and this is my first and last year I can submit anything."

--Wright

"I got (the title) from poetry, because it was an assignment where we took a line from poetry then we interpret it certain ways, and the line was 'I am what I am told, good, red meat.' (So) that's how I interpreted it."

--McKibben

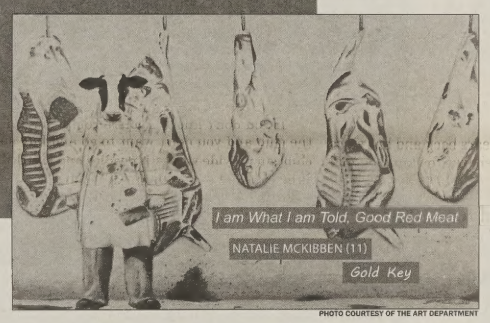


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

These art pieces recieved Gold Keys at the regional level of the Scholastics competition. All Gold Key art and writing pieces will go on to the national level. From there, winners will be invited to an award ceremony in NY. For a complete list of all the regional winners, visit www.hhsspartana.com.

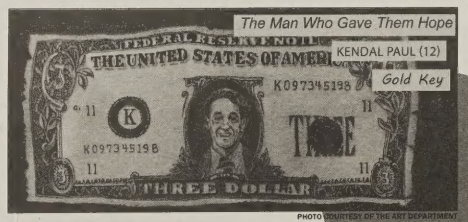


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

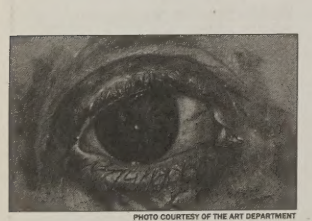


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

Wisdom by Emily Wright (12)
Gold Key

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

Never After 2 by Danielle Tinkel (9)
Gold Key

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

Never Saw It Coming by Matthew Bailey (12)
Gold Key

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

Fogged by Jacquie Kachmann (11)
Gold Key

Foreign exchange student travels from Brazil to experience United States

Through Rotary International organization, Jessica Sara Goulart enrolls in American classes in IN

BY TESSA VIRGILIO
Writer

Jessica Sara Goulart, native of Araxa, Minas Gerais, Brazil, is spending her junior year with the Spartans through the Rotary International exchange program, an organization with a base in Fort Wayne.

"(I opted for an exchange program) because I knew I could learn so much, and a lot of opportunities would come with it," Goulart (11) said.

As a 19-year-old, she is out of the Bazil's high school equivalent, Ensino Médio, which is for approximately 14-17 year olds. In Brazil, Goulart is at the level of pursuing higher education.

In the United States, she takes a few general education classes at the high school level, such as English 12B, French, statistics, photography, U.S. History and personal finance.

Goulart will return to Brazil this coming July, and from there, she wants to pursue collegiate education and hopes to study Foreign Relations.

Moving to another country can be tolling, as cultural adjustment and separate customs can prove difficult.

"In Brazil I used to play handball, which I found out is not a popular sport here," Goulart said.

While Goulart has had a phenomenal experience living in another country, she cannot seem to escape some fundamental complications.

"The most difficult thing about attending school in another country is the language," Goulart said. "(And) the biggest thing I had to adjust to is definitely the weather; it is so cold."

Six-minute passing periods, 10-10 rule and a seven hour school days may strike a person unfamiliar with the procedures as overtly and surprisingly prompt.

"The weirdest thing about Americans is the punctuality," Goulart said. "Everything is on time, and in Brazil we are only at school for five hours a day. I went to school from seven until noon."

Despite any small shocks in an exchange student's life, Goulart expresses the experience as falling nothing short of rewarding and irreplaceable.

"The thing love about America is all the new people and places that I am meeting," Goulart said. "I love being an exchange student and I think everyone that has an opportunity to do it should do it. It would be the best year of your life."

PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA SARA GOULART

Goulart (above) is one of many students involveed in the Rotary International Exchange program. She has traveled from her home country of Brazil to study in Fort Wayne.

designed by melana rossi

The Point 91.1fm makes waves on afterschool radio

Listeners from around the community able to listen in on student-produced audio and talk shows

BY EMMA PEARL
Writer

A face for radio, huh? The school's very own The Point 91fm happens to have quite a few faces, all of which possess a powerful voice. After all, having a voice is what radio is all about. Though known for their indie and alternative sound, The Point is also the home of several after school talk shows, taking up a slot every weekday from 2:45 to 5:00. The station did not always have a presence outside of school hours, however, according to Andy Dunn, station manager.

"Nobody had after school shows and there was really no driving force to have kids on after school," Dunn said. "Today, it has grown to where every single slot after school is filled. We're very fortunate that kids have taken an interest. It's a great outlet."

Radio broadcasting is not only considered a great outlet because it is an entertaining pastime, but radio also acts as a practice in finding a voice.

"I think radio helps the kids gain a voice and gain confidence in speaking," Dunn said. "They are technically not speaking face to face with anyone, but we probably have a good amount of listeners at any time."

Dunn's radio students would be inclined to agree regarding the benefits of having a radio show. Cody White (12) hosts a current-event based show with two other students and has found radio to be an opportunity for expression.

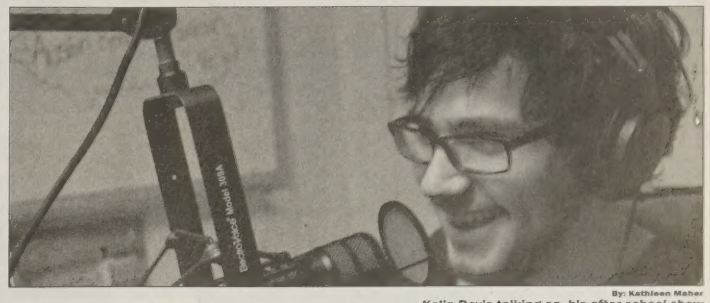
"It's really a chance to kind of spread your own voice and get your opinions out there," White said.

Radio students are not the only ones to find their voice on air. About half of the students one would hear after school do not, in fact, take the class. Dunn has found that students taking the TV broadcasting classes tend to find themselves on air, as well. Becca Malott (11), one such student, has found a love for radio.

"It's like you're having a conversation with another person even though you're kind of having a conversation with hundreds of people," Malott said.

Not only is radio an opportunity to speak, it is also a great way to express student creativity.

"I tell the kids if they can come up with something that they can continuously talk about and find different things for, then it is free range," Dunn said. "It's open to anything they can create."


By: Kathleen Maher

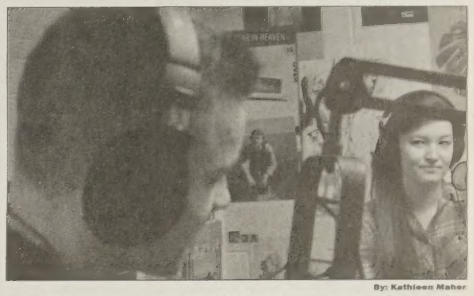
Kolin Davis talking on his after school show

Listening to The Point does not necessarily imply that one has to be a fan of the music. Many listen in solely to hear their friends' voices. However, some students would encourage listeners to keep an open mind.

"We have a library of over three thousand songs that we play here," Gabe Smith (11) said. "There's going to be some that you don't like, that's just kind of how music is, but there's also a lot of times that you might get six or seven songs in a row that you absolutely love."

Whether one is there for the music or there for the shows, radio has not left students wanting.

"It's a really cool experience," Malott said. "I was a little unsure about it at first because I was not in the class and I had never been on the radio, but I just kind of went and did it. It's a lot of fun. It's a conversation starter."


By: Kathleen Maher

Brayden Law and Madison McConahay doing a segment together

Knitting club generates interest in yarn and needle art

New group allows for students to explore passions for knitting with other likeminded students

BY PEYTON GREEN
Guest Writer

"You know... knitting is for everyone," Willow Pierce (10), the founder of the Homestead knitting club, said.

"There were three students that approached me. Lauren Hedrik, Samantha Schuburt and Willow Pierce," Kara Squires, club sponsor, said. All of the students have a passion for knitting.

Pierce began knitting a few years back and has since began knitting many things. Her love for knitting and her friend's love for knitting is what inspired them to bring together a knitting club.

The knitting club is held in Squire's room almost every Tuesday. Many people may think that knitting is for old ladies, but the club's outcome of people said otherwise. The initial call out meeting resulted in 20 students attending and there was a good mix of both boys and girls.

For those of you that are looking for a hobby to start, knitting may be just what you need.

"It's really relaxing," Pierce said about knitting, "and in the end you will have something really cool, like a hat, a blanket, or something even crazier!"

Knitting club may seem a bit tame, but they plan to do many projects once the club gets skilled enough.

"I think the club will be doing a few projects. I would love to yarn-bomb something, which is where you cover something entirely in knitted yarn," Pierce said, although nothing is for sure yet. Service projects may also be done in the future such as knitting gloves, hats, and other things for charities or those in need.

If you don't know if you're completely interested in the club and you don't want to go and buy supplies the club can provide you with needles and a little bit of yarn. If needed you can even just come to enjoy some snacks and refreshments and see the club's environment.

Perhaps you are already doing something similar to knitting such as crocheting you can come to club and learn more about something very similar to knitting.

"I started crocheting before I started to knit," Pierce said, "But, knitting has become my favorite of the two."

Do to the outcome knitting club meetings so far they are hoping to continue the club next year and hopefully even beyond that.

"Our first meeting was a big success and I think a lot of people are interested in knitting!" Piece said hopefully.

Knitting can be for everyone, boys or girls, young or old, it's never too late to start this relaxing activity, the outcome of your knitting will be great and you'll gain a new skill along the way as well. So stop on buy Mrs. Squires room next Tuesday to see what you're missing out on!

PHOTO BY PEYTON GREEN

Poetry Out Loud contest allows students to speak their voices

Top student will compete at state competition in Indianapolis for shot at national recognition

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

Poetry Out Loud was a contest which not only lets students show their presentation skills but also lets them learn more about the art of poetry. Open to anyone interested, this contest allows students to take two of their favorite poems and perform them in their own, unique way. Jason Beer, English teacher, has taken on the role of organizing and leading this year's competition.

"It looked like a neat program and something I would like to see if students would be interested in," Beer said.

In his previous teaching position at Columbia City High School, they also ran this program. He saw how there is always a group of students with a love for poetry but do not always have an outlet to express it. Poetry Out Loud provides these students with the chance to get involved with one of their passions.

"Hopefully this just creates an opportunity that wouldn't be there if I wasn't doing this," Beer said.

The contest started at school where students chose two poems from the Poetry Out Loud website and memorized the lines. The students then recited and essentially performed their selected poems.

The voting system is based on the memorization and the presentation. The judges this year were Beer alongside Scott Hill and Tara Olivero, English teachers. In addition to the memorization, they were also looking at the emotion the students put into their performance to see if they can express the meaning of the poem through their words. At the end of two rounds, each student was given a total score and students with the highest scores then went on to the state competition.

The two participants this year were Jacob Fulghum(12) and Jordan Nussear (12). Of the tw o,Nussear participated in the contest last year and this year took the win. She enjoys the performance aspect of the contest as well as getting to show the meaning of the poems she has chosen through her words. The two poems she recited this year were Time Does Not Bring Relief You All Have Lied and I Am Offering This Poem.

"It's really fun especially if you like poetry or if you like theater and things like that; it's a great opprotunity."

JORDAN NUSSEAR (12)
Poetry Out Loud 2016 winner

"I've always really liked it, I think it's a really fun form of expression," Nussear said.

The competition took place on Jan. 21 after school, and the winner will go onto the state competition which will be held in Indianapolis where the students will have three rounds to complete. The winner from the state competition will then go on to nationals which will be held in Washington DC.

"Its really fun especially if you like poetry or if you like theater and things like that; it's a great opportunity," Nussear said.

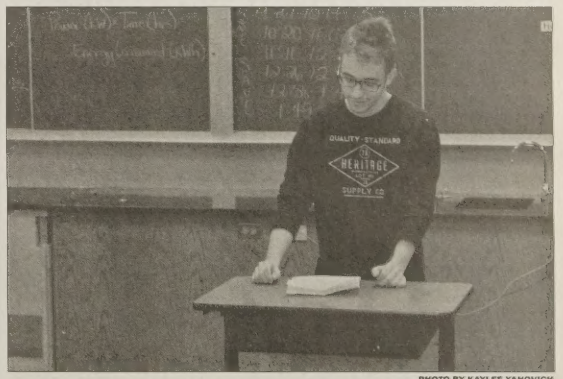
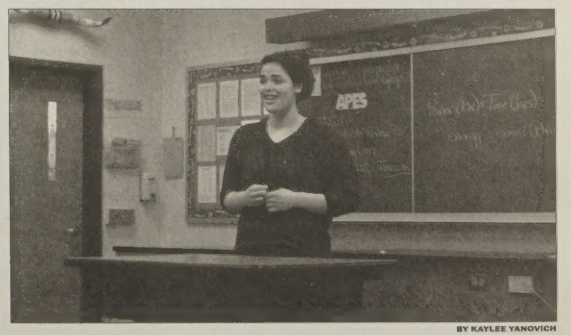


PHOTO BY KAYLEE YANOVICH

Jacob Fulghum (12) participates in a class activity for the national poetry contest.


BY KAYLEE YANOVICH

Jordan Nussear (12), the winner of the contest, recites her poem for Poetry Out Loud.

designed by awbrei vachon

LIFE

SCHOLASTICS ART AND WRITING AWARDS

A look at REGIONALS

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

Scholastics has been a well-known name since the ages of learning how to tie shoelaces and write the alphabet; students lit up when the Scholastic fair came to the library and the many books and knick-knacks were displayed for all to gaze upon. Back then, the term "Scholastics" might as well have been synonymous to "book fair," but nowadays, students know Scholastics to also run an art and writing contest at the start of each year for students grade seven to 12, and this year is no exception.

Contributing students put a lot of work into their pieces before taking a leap of hope and submitting them to the Scholastics competition, but the processing following submissions involving judging is also extensive.

After weeks and months of work, students finally uploaded their pieces to the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards website on Jan. 13, hoping for positive feedback in the weeks to come. From there, volunteers met at the Fort Wayne Museum of art the following Saturday, Jan. 16, to judge pieces and decide regional award winners as well as finalists for the national round of the competition.

Sarah Jones, art teacher, has been volunteering each year for the past 12 years with Scholastics as a facilitator and has seen exactly how the judging process works. The judging is divided up between writing and art, and then the art section is further divided up into 2D and 3D art. At each station, three judges discuss and vote on every piece.

"I facilitate the judging (for) the 2D station," Jones said. "There's basically like a really awesome, big, nice, clear TV, and I help digitally (by showing) them kind of a preview of all the images, and then we sort them out based on what their response is."

As each images flips across the big screen, the three judges, consisting of primarily local professors and artists, discuss their thoughts on the pieces and whether or not they will be considered for one of the three regional awards.

"They have a little red or green card, and so green says 'yes,' red says 'no,' and as they look at the images on the screen, they kind of flip their card yes or no, and then based on if there were three greens or two greens or only one green, we kind of sort them out," Jones said.

The judges have a certain criteria they are looking for in student art, which may surprise some individuals.

"Scholastics is pretty particular about the type of work that they give awards to, and the number one thing they're looking for is personal vision or voice, like evidence that this is beyond a class project, originality also, and technique is low-man on the totem pole," Jones said.

Despite technique being a bit less important, Scholastics still does not make it easy to get an award.

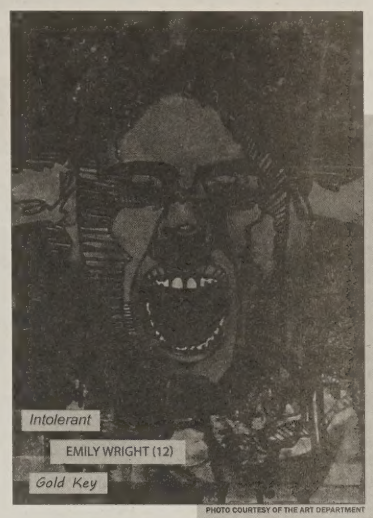
"I don't like to teach to a competition, I tell students that it's like buying a lottery ticket, but it's a chance for a professional to look at their work," Jones said. "(And) the judging is definitely subjective, they have guidelines but they still have their own sense of aesthetics and what's interesting and beautiful to them that they're bringing to the table."

The region Fort Wayne is a part of spans across much of northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio, and those who live farther will mail in their forms and payment or have volunteers travel down to deliver them.

"Our region has actually been in the top five of the entire United States for like the past five years, which is pretty incredible," Jones said. "We've beat out big cities like LA, and Chicago, we didn't beat New York, but some of those big metropolitan areas that you would assume would be having a lot of variety in entries, but this little po-dunk country area in Indiana (beat them)."

Winners at the regional level have been notified, and those who received Gold Keys will proceed to the national level. The regional awards will be held Feb. 14 at the Grand Wayne Center, and come march, the Scholastics Art and Writing Awards will announce national winners.

"I think it's a really wonderful opportunity for kids, but I also think I don't want kids to get their hearts broken either, because it's really hard to put yourself out there,"Jones said. "That's the downfall of the competition -- when they don't win when I think they're very deserving of it."



Intolerant
EMILY WRIGHT (12)
Gold Key

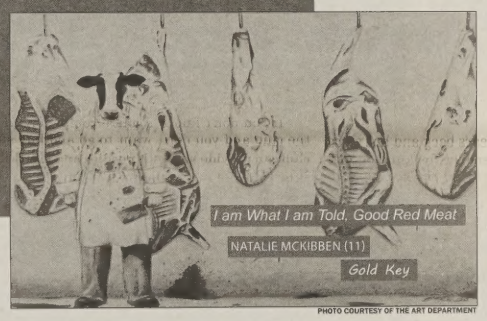
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

"(At) my old school, we didn't really submit stuff to Scholastics -- very few people did. It makes me more nervous; I don't want my confidence to go down because I'm hoping I can pursue a career in art. Plus it's always kind of been my goal to get a Gold Key and this is my first and last year I can submit anything."

--Wright

"I got (the title) from poetry, because it was an assignment where we took a line from poetry then we interpret it certain ways, and the line was 'I am what I am told, good, red meat.' (So) that's how I interpreted it."

--McKibben



I am What I am Told, Good Red Meat
NATALIE MCKIBBEN (11)
Gold Key

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

These art pieces recieved Gold Keys at the regional level of the Scholastics competition. All Gold Key art and writing pieces will go on to the national level. From there, winners will be invited to an award ceremony in NY. For a complete list of all the regional winners, visit www.hhsspartana.com.

The Man Who Gave Them Hope
KENDAL PAUL (12)
Gold Key

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

Wisdom by Emily Wright (12)
Gold Key

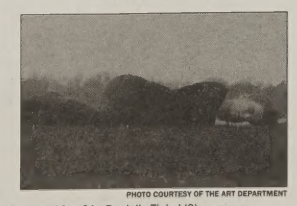


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

Never After 2 by Danielle Tinkel (9)
Gold Key

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

Never Saw It Coming by Matthew Bailey (12)
Gold Key

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

Fogged by Jacquie Kachmann (11)
Gold Key

Foreign exchange student travels from Brazil to experience United States

Through Rotary International organization, Jessica Sara Goulart enrolls in American classes in IN

BY TESSA VIRGILIO
Writer

Jessica Sara Goulart, native of Araxa, Minas Gerais, Brazil, is spending her junior year with the Spartans through the Rotary International exchange program, an organization with a base in Fort Wayne.

"(I opted for an exchange program) because I knew I could learn so much, and a lot of opportunities would come with it," Goulart (11) said.

As a 19-year-old, she is out of the Bazil's high school equivalent, Ensino Médio, which is for approximately 14-17 year olds. In Brazil, Goulart is at the level of pursuing higher education.

In the United States, she takes a few general education classes at the high school level, such as English 12B, French, statistics, photography, U.S. History and personal finance.

Goulart will return to Brazil this coming July, and from there, she wants to pursue collegiate education and hopes to study Foreign Relations.

Moving to another country can be tolling, as cultural adjustment and separate customs can prove difficult.

"In Brazil I used to play handball, which I found out is not a popular sport here," Goulart said.

While Goulart has had a phenomenal experience living in another country, she cannot seem to escape some fundamental complications.

"The most difficult thing about attending school in another country is the language," Goulart said. "(And) the biggest thing I had to adjust to is definitely the weather: it is so cold."

Six-minute passing periods, 10-10 rule and a seven hour school days may strike a person unfamiliar with the procedures as overtly and surprisingly prompt.

"The weirdest thing about Americans is the punctuality," Goulart said. "Everything is on time, and in Brazil we are only at school for five hours a day. I went to school from seven until noon."

Despite any small shocks in an exchange student's life, Goulart expresses the experience as falling nothing short of rewarding and irreplaceable.

"The thing love about America is all the new people and places that I am meeting," Goulart said. "I love being an exchange student and I think everyone that has an opportunity to do it should do it. It would be the best year of your life."

PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA SARA GOULART

Goulart (above) is one of many students involveed in the Rotary International Exchange program. She has traveled from her home country of Brazil to study in Fort Wayne.

designed by melana rossi

The Point 91.1fm makes waves on afterschool radio

Listeners from around the community able to listen in on student-produced audio and talk shows

BY EMMA PEARL
Writer

A face for radio, huh? The school's very own The Point 91fm happens to have quite a few faces, all of which possess a powerful voice. After all, having a voice is what radio is all about. Though known for their indie and alternative sound, The Point is also the home of several after school talk shows, taking up a slot every weekday from 2:45 to 5:00. The station did not always have a presence outside of school hours, however, according to Andy Dunn, station manager.

"Nobody had after school shows and there was really no driving force to have kids on after school," Dunn said. "Today, it has grown to where every single slot after school is filled. We're very fortunate that kids have taken an interest. It's a great outlet."

Radio broadcasting is not only considered a great outlet because it is an entertaining pastime, but radio also acts as a practice in finding a voice.

"I think radio helps the kids gain a voice and gain confidence in speaking," Dunn said. "They are technically not speaking face to face with anyone, but we probably have a good amount of listeners at any time."

Dunn's radio students would be inclined to agree regarding the benefits of having a radio show. Cody White (12) hosts a current-event based show with two other students and has found radio to be an opportunity for expression.

"It's really a chance to kind of spread your own voice and get your opinions out there," White said.

Radio students are not the only ones to find their voice on air. About half of the students one would hear after school do not, in fact, take the class. Dunn has found that students taking the TV broadcasting classes tend to find themselves on air, as well. Becca Malott (11), one such student, has found a love for radio.

"It's like you're having a conversation with another person even though you're kind of having a conversation with hundreds of people," Malott said.

Not only is radio an opportunity to speak, it is also a great way to express student creativity.

"I tell the kids if they can come up with something that they can continuously talk about and find different things for, then it is free range," Dunn said. "It's open to anything they can create."

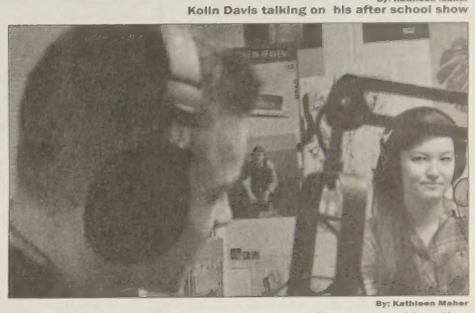
By: Kathleen Maher
Kolin Davis talking on his after school show

Listening to The Point does not necessarily imply that one has to be a fan of the music. Many listen in solely to hear their friends' voices. However, some students would encourage listeners to keep an open mind.

"We have a library of over three thousand songs that we play here," Gabe Smith (11) said. "There's going to be some that you don't like, that's just kind of how music is, but there's also a lot of times that you might get six or seven songs in a row that you absolutely love."

Whether one is there for the music or there for the shows, radio has not left students wanting.

"It's a really cool experience," Malott said. "I was a little unsure about it at first because I was not in the class and I had never been on the radio, but I just kind of went and did it. It's a lot of fun. It's a conversation starter."



By: Kathleen Maher
Brayden Law and Madison McConahay doing a segment together

Knitting club generates interest in yarn and needle art

New group allows for students to explore passions for knitting with other likeminded students

BY PEYTON GREEN
Guest Writer

"You know... knitting is for everyone," Willow Pierce (10), the founder of the Homestead knitting club, said.

"There were three students that approached me. Lauren Hedrik, Samantha Schubert and Willow Pierce," Kara Squires, club sponsor, said. All of the students have a passion for knitting.

Pierce began knitting a few years back and has since began knitting many things. Her love for knitting and her friend's love for knitting is what inspired them to bring together a knitting club.

The knitting club is held in Squire's room almost every Tuesday. Many people may think that knitting is for old ladies, but the club's outcome of people said otherwise. The initial call out meeting resulted in 20 students attending and there was a good mix of both boys and girls.

For those of you that are looking for a hobby to start, knitting may be just what you need.

"It's really relaxing," Pierce said about knitting, "and in the end you will have something really cool, like a hat, a blanket, or something even crazier!"

Knitting club may seem a bit tame, but they plan to do many projects once the club gets skilled enough.

"I think the club will be doing a few projects. I would love to yarn-bomb something, which is where you cover something entirely in knitted yarn," Pierce said, although nothing is for sure yet. Service projects may also be done in the future such as knitting gloves, hats, and other things for charities or those in need.

If you don't know if you're completely interested in the club and you don't want to go and buy supplies the club can provide you with needles and a little bit of yarn. If needed you can even just come to enjoy some snacks and refreshments and see the club's environment.

Perhaps you are already doing something similar to knitting such as crocheting you can come to club and learn more about something very similar to knitting.

"I started crocheting before I started to knit," Pierce said, "But, knitting has become my favorite of the two."

Do to the outcome knitting club meetings so far they are hoping to continue the club next year and hopefully even beyond that.

"Our first meeting was a big success and I think a lot of people are interested in knitting!" Piece said hopefully.

Knitting can be for everyone, boys or girls, young or old, it's never too late to start this relaxing activity, the outcome of your knitting will be great and you'll gain a new skill along the way as well. So stop on buy Mrs. Squires room next Tuesday to see what you're missing out on!

PHOTO BY PEYTON GREEN

Poetry Out Loud contest allows students to speak their voices

Top student will compete at state competition in Indianapolis for shot at national recognition

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

Poetry Out Loud was a contest which not only lets students show their presentation skills but also lets them learn more about the art of poetry. Open to anyone interested, this contest allows students to take two of their favorite poems and perform them in their own, unique way. Jason Beer, English teacher, has taken on the role of organizing and leading this year's competition.

"It looked like a neat program and something I would like to see if students would be interested in," Beer said.

In his previous teaching position at Columbia City High School, they also ran this program. He saw how there is always a group of students with a love for poetry but do not always have an outlet to express it. Poetry Out Loud provides these students with the chance to get involved with one of their passions.

"Hopefully this just creates an opportunity that wouldn't be there if I wasn't doing this," Beer said.

The contest started at school where students chose two poems from the Poetry Out Loud website and memorized the lines. The students then recited and essentially performed their selected poems.

The voting system is based on the memorization and the presentation. The judges this year were Beer alongside Scott Hill and Tara Olivero, English teachers. In addition to the memorization, they were also looking at the emotion the students put into their performance to see if they can express the meaning of the poem through their words. At the end of two rounds, each student was given a total score and students with the highest scores then went on to the state competition.

The two participants this year were Jacob Fulghum(12) and Jordan Nussear (12). Of the tw o,Nussear participated in the contest last year and this year took the win. She enjoys the performance aspect of the contest as well as getting to show the meaning of the poems she has chosen through her words. The two poems she recited this year were Time Does Not Bring Relief You All Have Lied and I Am Offering This Poem.

"It's really fun especially if you like poetry or if you like theater and things like that; it's a great opprotunity."

JORDAN NUSSEAR (12)
Poetry Out Loud 2016 winner

"I've always really liked it, I think it's a really fun form of expression," Nussear said.

The competition took place on Jan. 21 after school, and the winner will go onto the state competition which will be held in Indianapolis where the students will have three rounds to complete. The winner from the state competition will then go on to nationals which will be held in Washington DC.

"Its really fun especially if you like poetry or if you like theater and things like that; it's a great opportunity," Nussear said.

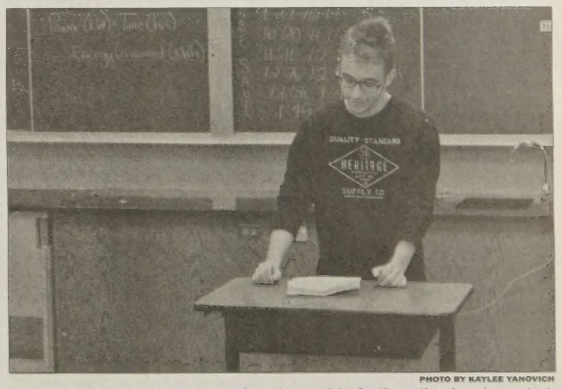
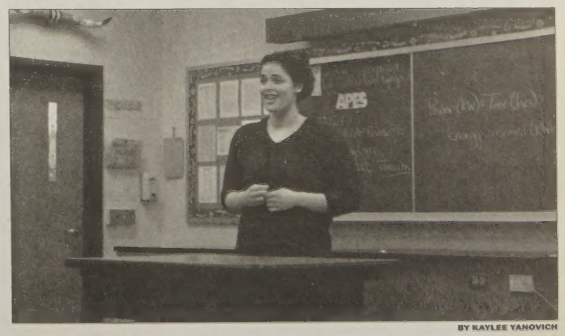


PHOTO BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Jacob Fulghum (12) participates in a class activity for the national poetry contest.



BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Jordan Nussear (12), the winner of the contest, recites her poem for Poetry Out Loud.

designed by kaylee yanovich

FEATURE

Memorable Moments of 2015

Movies & TV

Star Wars
The Martian
Mockingjay Part 2
Inside Out
Minions
Empire
Big Brother
Grey's Anatomy
Parks & Recreation
Agent Carter

In the News

Trump for President
Zayn Malik
Kanye 2020
Ferguson
Volkswagon
Caitlyn Jenner
ISIS
Paris
Same-Sex Marriage

Trends

Bath Bombs
Vaping
Dabbing
Whip/Naenae
Matte
The Quan
Record Players
Swell Bottles
Fitbits
Lokai
Alex & Ani
Zodiac
Snapchat Filters

Video Games

Fallout 4
Undertale
Demi: Path to Fame
Madden NFL 16

Music

Justin Beiber - Purpose
Adele - Hello
Fall Out Boy
Hamilton
Meghan Trainor
Taylor Swift - Bad Blood
Spotify
Drake - Hotline Bling
Halsey
iHeart Memphis - The Quan

Fashion

Khaki Joggers
Pastel Hair Dye
Birkenstocks
Temporary Tattoos
Choker Necklaces
Pearl Necklaces
Timberlands
Adidas
Henna Tattoos

Memes

"Miley, what's good?"
Shia Lebeouf
John Cena
"What are those?"
shoving breadsticks into purse
Steve Harvey
Drake
Pepe
Netflix & Chill
Left Shark
The Dress

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Champions Together team poses with unified partners to celebrate the inaugural game

UNIFIED SPORTS® combines students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team for sports training and competition. Special Olympics Indiana is considered a world leader in development of these programs having conducted the first-ever pilot test in 1989 and has since instituted competitions in virtually every sport.

TEAMS consist of an approximately equal number of athletes with intellectual disabilities (Unified Student Athletes) and athletes without intellectual disabilities (Unified Student Partners).

THESE distinctions will be for entry purposes only. There will be no other distinction between athletes in practice or competition

UNIFIED STUDENT ATHLETES:
William Alvarez
Triston Andorfer
RJ Casey
Blake Johnson
Bethany Kiess
Jake Tracey
Griffin Tutwiler

UNIFIED STUDENT PARTNERS:
Raechel Mullen (12)
Adrianna Natoli (12)
Savannah Buck (12)
Kailyn Scott (12)
Madisen Parker (11)
Sami Laws (11)
Nik Gogos (11)

TEAMS created with assistance from Austin Render (11)

REFEREES:
Ellis Yoder (11)
William Milne (10)

OPPONENTS: Snider, North Side, Carroll

15 minute exhibition game Champions Together plans to continue to track season

INFORMATION PROVIDE BY IHSAA

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Triston Andorfer (9) leads the Champions Together team onto the court with enthusiasm

Girls battle for return trip to Banker's Life

Team drops from top ranked squad to sixth in state teams after losses

BY KYLIE POLING
Byline

At week four, the Lady Spartans were ranked number eight in the nation. By week six, they were booted from espnW's 25 Power Rankings altogether. While they dropped to sixth in the state by MaxPreps, the ladies' two losses of the season, one to Benet Academy on Jan. 16 and the other to Heritage Christian High School on Jan. 23, contributed to their lowest standings of the season. Within the Summit Athletic Conference (SAC), though, the Lady Spartans have maintained a perfect 9-0 record. A repeat appearance at the IHSAA Class 4A state finals certainly seems possible at this point, but there are two regular season games to get through before post-season can even be a consideration.

The Lady Spartans play the Northrop Bruins in an away conference game at 7:00 p.m. and will travel to Toledo, Ohio to play Notre Dame Academy the following day on Jan. 30. With the SAC title clinched after a 68-33 win at North Side, post-season dreams are looming closer and closer. Sectionals will commence the first week of February, with regionals following the next Saturday. The Lady Spartans will compete in Sectional 6, alongside South Side, Wayne, Huntington North, Jay County and Muncie Central.

"On any given day, depending on what the other team is trying to take away from us, we can balance our scoring opportunities."
ROD PARKER
Coach

While no win is possible without the entire team, a handful of key players will be essential to ensuring the ladies' success in their quest to claim the state title they were seven points away from claiming in the 2014-2015 season. Florida commit Karissa McLaughlin (11) is a four-star point guard and played a fundamental role in the Spartans' state run last year. At Nike Nationals in July 2015 she was described as a "lead-guard with combo-game deliver(ed) consistently at the arc," helping to secure a ranking of 51 overall for the Class of 2017 by ESPN. McLaughlin was voted the News-Sentinel Fan Choice Postseason Player of the Year and hopes to continue that momentum into this year's upcoming postseason. Teammates are quick to praise her. "We love Karissa," Lindley Kistler (12) said. "She gets guarded hard and gets opportunities for other people."

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Lindley Kistler (12) rips ball away from Snider defender after whistle is blown

PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Nicole Weaver (12) drives to the paint to score another point for the Spartans

Another key component to the Lady Spartans' success is guard Madisen Parker (11), whose dad happens to be the team's head coach, Rod Parker. M. Parker was selected as the 21Alive/Parkview Sports Medicine Girls Basketball Player of the Week for Dec. 29. At the SAC Holiday Tournament, she averaged 19 points, 5 rebounds and 5 assists.

Kistler scored 17 against North Side in the conference-clinching game, proving herself as a seasoned returning player, having contributed hugely in last year's tournament play. She will join alumna Josie Fisher ('15) at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne next year.

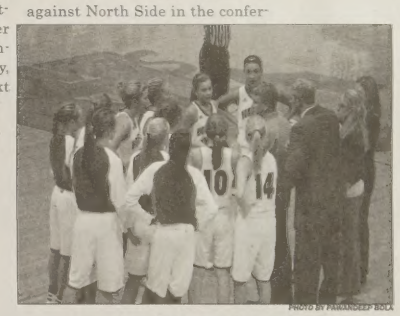


PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Team huddles together discussing strategy for the game

R. Parker has been pressured with delivering a nationally-competitive team mostly composed of juniors. Games are taken one at a time, with state looming anxiously in the back of everyone's minds "On any given day, depending on what the other team is trying to take away from us, we can balance our scoring opportunities," R. Parker said.

Small team with big dreams helps wrestlers to acheive with less

Wrestling team works to be best conditioned team around as they head into state tournament competition

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sport's Editor

The wrestling team has fought through their current season with stronger leadership than in previous years, and a higher drive to succeed. Now that they have some underclassmen stepping up and taking on new roles for the team, there are high hopes for the team's success for the remainder of this season.

We've never really been able to feel the entire lineup, and this year we're actually doing that," Jack Franklin (12) said.

The early season has been rough as two wrestlers have previously been out with injuries, but the team plans to make a big comeback and the guys have faith in their ability to follow through with their seasonal goals, even with a smaller amount of people on the team this year, six in total, which can hold the team back.

"It's a pretty negative thing actually," Drake Rhodes (11) said. "Sometimes we don't have guys in certain weight classes and we have to give up points.

The guys have become closer as people and as wrestlers this season because of the size of their team, spending long hours after school every day working themselves to accomplish weekly goals.

"We've gone through some tough times up in the wrestling room together," Franklin said. "There's not one guy on the team that I don't consider my brother. Just becoming a stronger person is something any high school sport does; I think it shapes you into a better man."

One of the team's main focuses throughout the season has been endurance, and trying to last the full two minutes on the matt. They want to put up a fight against their opponent, even if the final outcome is not what they are striving for.

"We have a tendency to have our guys go to their back, and our main focus is to keep people from falling over," Rhodes said.

""There's not another team in the state that I think it better conditioned than us, Our goal is to become sectional champions, regional champions, then move to semi-state and beyond."
JACK FRANKLIN (12)

Rhodes is in his eighth year of wrestling, showing his endurance and passion for the sport. However, it wasn't always like this.

"My mom wouldn't let me do karate, so I started wrestling instead," Rhodes said with a laugh.

Head coach Nathan DeVaux does not hold back on the team, pushing all of the wrestlers as much as possible every practice to give the team a challenge on their road to improvement.

"There's not another team in the state that I think it better conditioned than us," Franklin said. "Our goal is to become sectional champions, regional champions, then move to semi-state and beyond."

With a current record of 10-13, the boys will begin sectional competition tomorrow at New Haven.

designed by kaylee yanovich

FEATURE

Memorable Moments of 2015

Movies & TV

Star Wars
The Martian
Mockingjay Part 2
Inside Out
Minions
Empire
Big Brother
Grey's Anatomy
Parks & Recreation
Agent Carter

In the News

Trump for President
Zayn Malik
Kanye 2020
Ferguson
Volkswagon
Caitlyn Jenner
ISIS
Paris
Same-Sex Marriage

Trends

Bath Bombs
Vaping
Dabbing
Whip/Naenae
Matte
The Quan
Record Players
Swell Bottles
Fitbits
Lokai
Alex & Ani
Zodiac
Snapchat Filters

Video Games

Fallout 4
Undertale
Demi: Path to Fame
Madden NFL 16

Music

Justin Beiber - Purpose
Adele - Hello
Fall Out Boy
Hamilton
Meghan Trainor
Taylor Swift - Bad Blood
Spotify
Drake - Hotline Bling
Halsey
iHeart Memphis - The Quan

Fashion

Khaki Joggers
Pastel Hair Dye
Birkenstocks
Temporary Tattoos
Choker Necklaces
Pearl Necklaces
Timberlands
Adidas
Henna Tattoos

Memes

"Miley, what's good?"
Shia Lebeouf
John Cena
"What are those?"
shoving breadsticks into purse
Steve Harvey
Drake
Pepe
Netflix & Chill
Left Shark
The Dress

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Champions Together team poses with unified partners to celebrate the inaugural game

UNIFIED SPORTS® combines students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team for sports training and competition. Special Olympics Indiana is considered a world leader in development of these programs having conducted the first-ever pilot test in 1989 and has since instituted competitions in virtually every sport.

TEAMS consist of an approximately equal number of athletes with intellectual disabilities (Unified Student Athletes) and athletes without intellectual disabilities (Unified Student Partners).

THESE distinctions will be for entry purposes only. There will be no other distinction between athletes in practice or competition

UNIFIED STUDENT ATHLETES:
William Alvarez
Triston Andorfer
RJ Casey
Blake Johnson
Bethany Kiess
Jake Tracey
Griffin Tutwiler

UNIFIED STUDENT PARTNERS:
Raechel Mullen (12)
Adrianna Natoli (12)
Savannah Buck (12)
Kailyn Scott (12)
Madisen Parker (11)
Sami Laws (11)
Nik Gogos (11)

TEAMS created with assistance from Austin Render (11)

REFEREES:
Ellis Yoder (11)
William Milne (10)

OPPONENTS: Snider, North Side, Carroll

15 minute exhibition game Champions Together plans to continue to track season

INFORMATION PROVIDE BY IHSAA

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Triston Andorfer (9) leads the Champions Together team onto the court with enthusiasm

Girls battle for return trip to Banker's Life

Team drops from top ranked squad to sixth in state teams after losses

BY KYLIE POLING
Byline

At week four, the Lady Spartans were ranked number eight in the nation. By week six, they were booted from espnW's 25 Power Rankings altogether. While they dropped to sixth in the state by MaxPreps, the ladies' two losses of the season, one to Benet Academy on Jan. 16 and the other to Heritage Christian High School on Jan. 23, contributed to their lowest standings of the season. Within the Summit Athletic Conference (SAC), though, the Lady Spartans have maintained a perfect 9-0 record. A repeat appearance at the IHSAA Class 4A state finals certainly seems possible at this point, but there are two regular season games to get through before post-season can even be a consideration.

The Lady Spartans play the Northrop Bruins in an away conference game at 7:00 p.m. and will travel to Toledo, Ohio to play Notre Dame Academy the following day on Jan. 30. With the SAC title clinched after a 68-33 win at North Side, post-season dreams are looming closer and closer. Sectionals will commence the first week of February, with regionals following the next Saturday. The Lady Spartans will compete in Sectional 6, alongside South Side, Wayne, Huntington North, Jay County and Muncie Central.

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Lindley Kistler (12) rips ball away from Snider defender after whistle is blown

PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Nicole Weaver (12) drives to the paint to score another point for the Spartans

> "On any given day, depending on what the other team is trying to take away from us, we can balance our scoring opportunities."
>
> **ROD PARKER**
> *Coach*

While no win is possible without the entire team, a handful of key players will be essential to ensuring the ladies' success in their quest to claim the state title they were seven points away from claiming in the 2014-2015 season.

Florida commit Karissa McLaughlin (11) is a four-star point guard and played a fundamental role in the Spartans' state run last year. At Nike Nationals in July 2015 she was described as a "lead-guard with combo-game deliver(ed) consistently at the arc," helping to secure a ranking of 51 overall for the Class of 2017 by ESPN. McLaughlin was voted the News-Sentinel Fan Choice Postseason Player of the Year and hopes to continue that momentum into this year's upcoming postseason. Teammates are quick to praise her. "We love Karissa," Lindley Kistler (12) said. "She gets guarded hard and gets opportunities for other people."

Another key component to the Lady Spartans' success is guard Madisen Parker (11), whose dad happens to be the team's head coach, Rod Parker. M. Parker was selected as the 21Alive/Parkview Sports Medicine Girls Basketball Player of the Week for Dec. 29. At the SAC Holiday Tournament, she averaged 19 points, 5 rebounds and 5 assists.

Kistler scored 17 against North Side in the conference-clinching game, proving herself as a seasoned returning player, having contributed hugely in last year's tournament play. She will join alumna Josie Fisher ('15) at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne next year.

R. Parker has been pressured with delivering a nationally-competitive team mostly composed of juniors. Games are taken one at a time, with state looming anxiously in the back of everyone's minds. "On any given day, depending on what the other team is trying to take away from us, we can balance our scoring opportunities," R. Parker said.

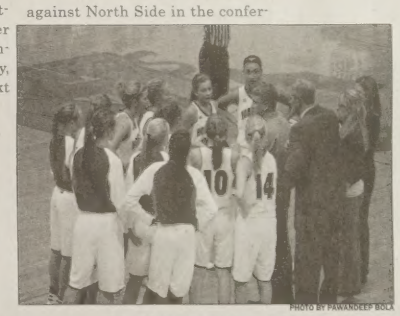


PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Team huddles together discussing strategy for the game

Small team with big dreams helps wrestlers to acheive with less

Wrestling team works to be best conditioned team around as they head into state tournament competition

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sport's Editor

The wrestling team has fought through their current season with stronger leadership than in previous years, and a higher drive to succeed. Now that they have some underclassmen stepping up and taking on new roles for the team, there are high hopes for the team's success for the remainder of this season.

We've never really been able to feel the entire lineup, and this year we're actually doing that," Jack Franklin (12) said.

The early season has been rough as two wrestlers have previously been out with injuries, but the team plans to make a big comeback and the guys have faith in their ability to follow through with their seasonal goals, even with a smaller amount of people on the team this year, six in total, which can hold the team back.

"It's a pretty negative thing actually," Drake Rhodes (11) said. "Sometimes we don't have guys in certain weight classes and we have to give up points.

The guys have become closer as people and as wrestlers this season because of the size of their team, spending long hours after school every day working themselves to accomplish weekly goals.

"We've gone through some tough times up in the wrestling room together," Franklin said. "There's not one guy on the team that I don't consider my brother. Just becoming a stronger person is something any high school sport does; I think it shapes you into a better man."

One of the team's main focuses throughout the season has been endurance, and trying to last the full two minutes on the matt. They want to put up a fight against their opponent, even if the final outcome is not what they are striving for.

"We have a tendency to have our guys go to their back, and our main focus is to keep people from falling over," Rhodes said.

> ""There's not another team in the state that I think it better conditioned than us, Our goal is to become sectional champions, regional champions, then move to semi-state and beyond."
>
> **JACK FRANKLIN (12)**

Rhodes is in his eighth year of wrestling, showing his endurance and passion for the sport. However, it wasn't always like this.

"My mom wouldn't let me do karate, so I started wrestling instead," Rhodes said with a laugh.

Head coach Nathan DeVaux does not hold back on the team, pushing all of the wrestlers as much as possible every practice to give the team a challenge on their road to improvement.

"There's not another team in the state that I think it better conditioned than us," Franklin said. "Our goal is to become sectional champions, regional champions, then move to semi-state and beyond."

With a current record of 10-13, the boys will begin sectional competition tomorrow at New Haven.

Cabaret proves full of jazz, fun, sophistication

BY TESSA VIRGILIO
Executive Editor

The heavy glow of cylindrical light fixtures suspended from daunting, opaque blackness above, allowing only a slim sight of the seemingly mute chattering mouths of an assembly, engenders anxieties in some performers. With an inaugural backdrop of incessant murmurs sending some primary high school performers whirling, Cabaret night sets up an easeful transition into the show choir's competition season.

Cabaret is a night of local entertainment put on by Elite, the female show choir, and Class Royale, the female and male show choir. While it serves as a briefing for the audition additions, it is a night senior members know well of food, entertainment, and prizes; but the show choir is on stage and behind the counters at this winter day for the fine arts, rendering it a product of the students as well as staff.

"I (sell) raffle tickets, which we sell to everyone in the cafeteria that night," Paige Norton (12), Class Royale member, said. "The preparation before Cabaret really consists of setting up; we have to set up the areas of the school that we use so that they function. We have got to set up all the tables for food and prizes and stuff. We have to make sure our show is clean and know everything that is happening at each moment."

Cabaret night was Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. with the exposure of this year's productions from Elite and Class Royale. Both a live and silent silent auction took place in the cafeteria followed by the two show choirs' performances. An acapella group performed, Smooth Rhythms 2, mixed in with the great acts. Anonymous Blue, the show choirs' backup band, also performed, with Todd Roth, director, and Curtis Shaw, show choir director; the two took lead singing parts in multiple songs.

"We have our first competition on Feb. 6 at Northrop, and so basically after Cabaret weekend on the twenty third, we have the next weekend free, and our competition season kicks into full gear- every weekend in February and like half of March," Krista Farrell (12), Class Royale member, said.

Anonymous Blue, the backup band for show choir, provided background jazz throughout the silent auction.

"Cabaret night is an event people want to witness because it supports the fine arts program at Homestead and is very entertaining," Corey Keplinger (12), Anonymous Blue musician, said.

Prospects for a season of "upbeat funk tunes" for Class Royale, respectively, and the other two ensembles are high, with seniors propelling the program to its potential, newbies finding their place with confidence and veterans working on mending the gaps as they see fit.

"I think this year AB is going to do very well," Keplinger said. "Our goal is to get best band at every single competition. It looks like we're in good shape having strength and experience in all sections: saxes, trumpets and rhythm section."

Class Royale incurred new leadership in the production of its show, calling upon a familiar choreographer, Mike Weaver, to work with the group, after he parted with it in 2013.

"We have a different choreographer this year and he's putting in lifts and more complicated moves, making it a lot more intense, but I really like what we're doing," Ferrel said. "Our director Curtis Shaw wanted to see how a different choreographer would go this year."

Cabaret night kicks off the show choir competition season and brews pride and nostalgia in seniors' hearts as the fine arts program they know so well seems so ephemeral in these final months of participation.

"Going through the program as a senior means a lot to me this year, being one of only few to be a part of Anonymous Blue for all four years," Keplinger said. "I'm going to try and do the best I can at every performance to make sure I make my last year the best year."

At the conclusion of the season, this sector of the fine arts department will fly out to Orlando to perform at Disney World.

"We will perform in FAME there, so that will be lots of fun," Ferrel said.

PHOTOS BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

the SPARTANA

issue five
volume forty five
february 29, 2016
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

www.hhsspartana.com | A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

INSIDENOW

NEWS
Spartans Speak club emulates TED Talks. Rube Goldberg unveils new contraption for competition. Robotics club meets. 2

LIFE
Student attends one event for each sport to commemorate his senior year. Winter guard begins competition season. 4

FEATURE
Just Because Week features theme days and events, including dodgeball and volleyball tournaments and a talent show. 8

OPINION
Late arrivals result in poor parking options for senior experience students. Court storming questioned. 3

SPORTS
Girls swim and dive places seventh at state, boys win sectionals. Girl basketball falls at semi-state. 7

ONLINE
visit www.hhsspartana.com.
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

JUST BECAUSE WEEK RECAP & PICS

FEB. 22-26

PAGE 8

COMING SOON: NEW LAPTOPS

Students evaluate new potential laptops

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Writer

WHAT?
Student evaluation of laptops under consideration for students for next year

WHEN?
Now through mid-February

WHO?
Sophomore and Junior students

HOW WERE STUDENTS SELECTED?
Teacher Recommendation- with an emphasis on selecting students currently in at least one course with significant/complex laptop requirements

NUMBER OF LAPTOPS?
6 in the current rotation and 2 more expected to arrive early next week

TYPES OF DEVICES?
HP
Mac
Lenovo

HOW WERE DEVICES SELECTED?
Looking at devices that meet the technological needs of the curricula across all high school disciplines, have the durability to withstand the rigors of being used in a school setting, and are fiscally a good option for the district. Narrowing the options down based on independent research, discussions with other 1:1 schools, and site visits to study the devices in actual use at similar high schools.

NEW OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED?
Touchscreen
Convertible (PC and laptop in one)

HOW WILL FEEDBACK BE COLLECTED?
Each student will use a device for 48 hours and then complete an online evaluation form when they turn in that laptop. Students will repeat this process for each available device.

WHAT ARE STUDENTS COMPARING AND EVALUATING?
Screen size
Screen resolution
Keyboard size
Trackpad size and responsiveness
Advantages and disadvantages of having tablet capability
Advantages and disadvantages of having touch screen capability
Speed when powering on/off, sleep mode and upon opening lid.
Battery Life
Ability to use with our more advanced software (Adobe PhotoShop, inDesign, AutoCAD, etc.)
Browser speed

OTHER FEEDBACK?
Students will be asked to provide any additional evaluation and comments beyond the above topics.

For many students, slow, lagging laptops have become a major concern and hindrance in day to day school activities. For some, even completing minor tasks has become a major frustration.

The administration has been assessing new laptops for students next year. A few students have been chosen to demo 8 of the potential laptops and see what works and does not work in a school setting, and their decision will help determine what laptop students receive next year.

In no particular order, the laptops presented are: the HP Spectre x360, HP 745G3, HP ProBook 645G2, HP ProBook 645 G1, Lenovo L450, Lenovo T450, Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga 260 and the 11 inch MacBook Air.

Several of the potential laptops have tablet or 2-in-1 capability, which is hoped to aid in productivity and multi-tasking in the classroom, but is met with mixed receptions. The HP Spectre x360 and the Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga 260 are the two options for convertible PCs.

The computer that has brought the most notice is the MacBook. Although MacBooks are reputable and reliable computers, the change of operating system would likely require a huge learning curve for many of the students, in addition to the fact that the MacBook's screen is much smaller than the current student laptop.

While this screen size may be a disadvantage for some students, it positively contributes to the MacBook's measly 2.38 pounds. This lighter weight would definitely help alleviate some of the weight in many students' backpacks.

The laptops that many may be wary of are the HP ProBooks. These PCs, while capable in their own right, are in some senses a continuation of the current laptops used at the high school level. These are essentially the same as what are employed in the middle schools. Simply because of the hours of headache caused by the current HP ProBooks, these laptops would likely be received poorly by students.

The convertible options have certainly piqued curiosity, and are an interesting choice, with many opportunities available with them. This type of computer is noted for the ease of use in regards to multi-tasking, and has the potential to be exceptional in a scholastic setting if utilized correctly.

The last hurdle that many may face is the adoption of Windows 10 on all new PC's that are being sold. So many are used to the school's current Windows 7; and many use Windows 8, 7 or even still Vista or XP at home, that there would likely be a learning curve to using Windows 10 as well.

Despite this, Windows 10 has numerous features geared towards productivity, such as multi-window viewing, new keyboard shortcuts to quickly navigate open applications or start new ones, and even utilize multiple virtual desktops that can be switched back and forth with simple keyboard shortcuts.

These features could very well be ideal in a school setting where quick productivity is key to getting things done in the classroom or at home. Additionally, Windows 10 has the potential to be setup for either desktop, tablet or mixed functionality, which would be ideal for the convertible option laptops.

Despite speculation though, the new laptop for the years to come is still unknown, and any of those listed could become either favored by or the scourge of the student body for the years to come.

Student born on Leap Day turns '4' Feb. 29

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

Every four years the month of February is one day longer which comes unnoticed to some people. This one-day extension is known as leap year.

Leap year is 366 days instead of the regular 365, which is used to keep the Gregorian calendar aligned with the earth's rotation.

Although this anomaly may not affect many people, this does affect the lives of people who were born on the leap day.

.274%
of population born on Leap Day Source: Statistic Brain

It is not often that there are people born on leap day but those who have that birthday are quite special. According to http://www.statisticbrain.com , there are about 10,800 people born in the US on leap year and about 4,791,239 people worldwide. At first it may seem like no big deal but these people technically only have a birthday every four years. Jack Klein (10) is one of those with this unique birth date.

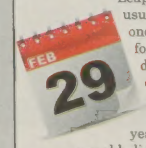
"I've always felt special because I've realized I'm the only one I know (...) whose birthday is the 29th," Klein said.

1
student born on Jan. 29

The Kleins have a funny tradition when leap year comes around, with the family celebrating the technical age he is turning. For example, when Klein turned "three" in 2012, he was given little kid themed cards as if he were actually turning that age, although his actual age was 12.

"It is always funny to tell someone my birthday and 5 seconds later they have the realization that I'm only about to be four," Klein said.

People born on this day do not usually wait to celebrate on the exact same day, as they celebrate on Feb. 28 or Mar. 1 based on their own preference.



Leap year may not be the usual holiday, but is it one that should not be forgotten.exact same day, as they celebrate on Feb. 28 or Mar. 1 based on their own preference. Leap year may not be the usual holiday, but is it one that should not be forgotten.

WE'LL HAVE A SNOW DAY WHEN...

PIGS ~~FLY~~ TAKE OVER THE SCHOOL

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

While weather conditions caused an eLearning day on Thursday, a new breed of students went to school. A resident in the nearby area of the school owned several pigs and kept them contained within a pen at his house. However, the pigs decided to break free from their confinement and left their owner's house, going on an excursion to the school. People on campus Thursday were surprised to encounter several pigs eating plants on school grounds, and Animal Control was called in to contain the situation. Meanwhile, students were taking to Snapchat and Twitter, squealing about the visitors. Many assumed that the pigs were an attempt at a senior prank, similar to one several years ago when three pigs, labeled 1, 2 and 4, were released into the school. Although the pigs were simply an accident, it may inspire current seniors to bring back the trend of senior pranks that ended years ago, since seniors involved in such pranks are liable to arrest.

COURTESY OF SHEREE FURNISS

During the course of the snow day, a group of swine friends wandered onto school property prompting a thorough investigation.

Cabaret proves full of jazz, fun, sophistication

BY TESSA VIRGILIO
Executive Editor

The heavy glow of cylindrical light fixtures suspended from daunting, opaque blackness above, allowing only a slim sight of the seemingly mute chattering mouths of an assembly, engenders anxieties in some performers. With an inaugural backdrop of incessant murmurs sending some primary high school performers whirling, Cabaret night sets up an easeful transition into the show choir's competition season.

Cabaret is a night of local entertainment put on by Elite, the female show choir, and Class Royale, the female and male show choir. While it serves as a briefing for the audition additions, it is a night senior members know well of food, entertainment, and prizes; but the show choir is on stage and behind the counters at this winter day for the fine arts, rendering it a product of the students as well as staff.

"I (sell) raffle tickets, which we sell to everyone in the cafeteria that night," Paige Norton (12), Class Royale member, said. "The preparation before Cabaret really consists of setting up; we have to set up the areas of the school that we use so that they function. We have got to set up all the tables for food and prizes and stuff. We have to make sure our show is clean and know everything that is happening at each moment."

Cabaret night was Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. with the exposure of this year's productions from Elite and Class Royale. Both a live and silent silent auction took place in the cafeteria followed by the two show choirs' performances. An acapella group performed, Smooth Rhythms 2, mixed in with the great acts. Anonymous Blue, the show choirs' backup band, also performed, with Todd Roth, director, and Curtis Shaw, show choir director; the two took lead singing parts in multiple songs.

"We have our first competition on Feb. 6 at Northrop, and so basically after Cabaret weekend on the twenty third, we have the next weekend free, and our competition season kicks into full gear every weekend in February and like half of March," Krista Farrell (12), Class Royale member, said.

Anonymous Blue, the backup band for show choir, provided background jazz throughout the silent auction.

"Cabaret night is an event people want to witness because it supports the fine arts program at Homestead and is very entertaining," Corey Keplinger (12), Anonymous Blue musician, said.

Prospects for a season of "upbeat funk tunes" for Class Royale, respectively, and the other two ensembles are high, with seniors propelling the program to its potential, newbies finding their place with confidence and veterans working on mending the gaps as they see fit.

"I think this year AB is going to do very well," Keplinger said. "Our goal is to get best band at every single competition. It looks like we're in good shape having strength and experience in all sections: saxes, trumpets and rhythm section."

Class Royale incurred new leadership in the production of its show, calling upon a familiar choreographer, Mike Weaver, to work with the group, after he parted with it in 2013.

"We have a different choreographer this year and he's putting in lifts and more complicated moves, making it a lot more intense, but I really like what we're doing," Ferrel said. "Our director Curtis Shaw wanted to see how a different choreographer would go this year."

Cabaret night kicks off the show choir competition season and brews pride and nostalgia in seniors' hearts as the fine arts program they know so well seems so ephemeral in these final months of participation.

"Going through the program as a senior means a lot to me this year, being one of only few to be a part of Anonymous Blue for all four years," Keplinger said. "I'm going to try and do the best I can at every performance to make sure I make my last year the best year."

At the conclusion of the season, this sector of the fine arts department will fly out to Orlando to perform at Disney World.

"We will perform in FAME there, so that will be lots of fun," Ferrel said.

PHOTOS BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

the SPARTANA

issue five
volume forty five
february 29, 2016
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

www.hhsspartana.com | A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

INSIDE NOW

NEWS
Spartans Speak club emulates TED Talks. Rube Goldberg unveils new contraption for competition. Robotics club meets. 2

LIFE
Student attends one event for each sport to commemorate his senior year. Winter guard begins competition season. 4

FEATURE
Just Because Week features theme days and events, including dodgeball and volleyball tournaments and a talent show. 8

OPINION
Late arrivals result in poor parking options for senior experience students. Court storming questioned. 3

SPORTS
Girls swim and dive places seventh at state, boys win sectionals. Girl basketball falls at semi-state. 7

ONLINE
visit www.hhsspartana.com.
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

JUST BECAUSE WEEK RECAP & PICS

FEB. 22-26

PAGE 8

COMING SOON: NEW LAPTOPS

Students evaluate new potential laptops

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Writer

For many students, slow, lagging laptops have become a major concern and hindrance in day to day school activities. For some, even completing minor tasks has become a major frustration.

The administration has been assessing new laptops for students next year. A few students have been chosen to demo 8 of the potential laptops and see what works and does not work in a school setting, and their decision will help determine what laptop students receive next year.

In no particular order, the laptops presented are: the HP Spectre x360, HP 745G3, HP ProBook 645G2, HP ProBook 645 G1, Lenovo L450, Lenovo T450, Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga 260 and the 11 inch MacBook Air.

Several of the potential laptops have tablet or 2-in-1 capability, which is hoped to aid in productivity and multi-tasking in the classroom, but is met with mixed receptions. The HP Spectre x360 and the Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga 260 are the two options for convertible PCs.

The computer that has brought the most notice is the MacBook. Although MacBooks are reputable and reliable computers, the change of operating system would likely require a huge learning curve for many of the students, in addition to the fact that the MacBook's screen is much smaller than the current student laptop.

While this screen size may be a disadvantage for some students, it positively contributes to the MacBook's measly 2.38 pounds. This lighter weight would definitely help alleviate some of the weight in many students' backpacks.

The laptops that many may be wary of are the HP ProBooks. These PCs, while capable in their own right, are in some senses a continuation of the current laptops used at the high school level. These are essentially the same as what are employed in the middle schools. Simply because of the hours of headache caused by the current HP ProBooks, these laptops would likely be received poorly by students.

The convertible options have certainly piqued curiosity, and are an interesting choice, with many opportunities available with them. This type of computer is noted for the ease of use in regards to multi-tasking, and has the potential to be exceptional in a scholastic setting if utilized correctly.

The last hurdle that many may face is the adoption of Windows 10 on all new PC's that are being sold. So many are used to the school's current Windows 7; and many use Windows 8, 7 or even still Vista or XP at home, that there would likely be a learning curve to using Windows 10 as well.

Despite this, Windows 10 has numerous features geared towards productivity, such as multi-window viewing, new keyboard shortcuts to quickly navigate open applications or start new ones, and even utilize multiple virtual desktops that can be switched back and forth with simple keyboard shortcuts.

These features could very well be ideal in a school setting where quick productivity is key to getting things done in the classroom or at home. Additionally, Windows 10 has the potential to be setup for either desktop, tablet or mixed functionality, which would be ideal for the convertible option laptops.

Despite speculation though, the new laptop for the years to come is still unknown, and any of those listed could become either favored by or the scourge of the student body for the years to come.

WHAT?
Student evaluation of laptops under consideration for students for next year

WHEN?
Now through mid-February

WHO?
Sophomore and Junior students

HOW WERE STUDENTS SELECTED?
Teacher Recommendation– with an emphasis on selecting students currently in at least one course with significant/complex laptop requirements

NUMBER OF LAPTOPS?
6 in the current rotation and 2 more expected to arrive early next week

TYPES OF DEVICES?
HP
Mac
Lenovo

HOW WERE DEVICES SELECTED?
Looking at devices that meet the technological needs of the curricula across all high school disciplines, have the durability to withstand the rigors of being used in a school setting, and are fiscally a good option for the district. Narrowing the options down based on independent research, discussions with other 1:1 schools, and site visits to study the devices in actual use at similar high schools.

NEW OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED?
Touchscreen
Convertible (PC and laptop in one)

HOW WILL FEEDBACK BE COLLECTED?
Each student will use a device for 48 hours and then complete an online evaluation form when they turn in that laptop. Students will repeat this process for each available device.

WHAT ARE STUDENTS COMPARING AND EVALUATING?
Screen size
Screen resolution
Keyboard size
Trackpad size and responsiveness
Advantages and disadvantages of having tablet capability
Advantages and disadvantages of having touch screen capability
Speed when powering on/off, sleep mode and upon opening lid.
Battery Life
Ability to use with our more advanced software (Adobe PhotoShop, InDesign, AutoCAD, etc.)
Browser speed

OTHER FEEDBACK?
Students will be asked to provide any additional evaluation and comments beyond the above topics.

Student born on Leap Day turns '4' Feb. 29

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

Every four years the month of February is one day longer which comes unnoticed to some people. This one-day extension is known as leap year.

Leap year is 366 days instead of the regular 365, which is used to keep the Gregorian calendar aligned with the earth's rotation.

Although this anomaly may not affect many people, this does affect the lives of people who were born on the leap day.

.274% of population born on Leap Day Source: Statistic Brain

It is not often that there are people born on leap day but those who have that birthday are quite special. According to http://www.statisticbrain.com , there are about 10,800 people born in the US on leap year and about 4,791,239 people worldwide. At first it may seem like no big deal but these people technically only have a birthday every four years. Jack Klein (10) is one of those with this unique birth date.

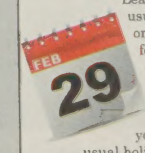
"I've always felt special because I've realized I'm the only one I know (...) whose birthday is the 29th," Klein said.

1 student born on Jan. 29

The Kleins have a funny tradition when leap year comes around, with the family celebrating the technical age he is turning. For example, when Klein turned "three" in 2012, he was given little kid themed cards as if he were actually turning that age, although his actual age was 12.

"It is always funny to tell someone my birthday and 5 seconds later they have the realization that I'm only about to be four," Klein said.

People born on this day do not usually wait to celebrate on the exact same day, as they celebrate on Feb. 28 or Mar. 1 based on their own preference.



Leap year may not be the usual holiday, but is it one that should not be forgotten.exact same day, as they celebrate on Feb. 28 or Mar. 1 based on their own preference. Leap year may not be the usual holiday, but is it one that should not be forgotten.

WE'LL HAVE A SNOW DAY WHEN...

PIGS ~~FLY~~ TAKE OVER THE SCHOOL

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

While weather conditions caused an eLearning day on Thursday, a new breed of students went to school. A resident in the nearby area of the school owned several pigs and kept them contained within a pen at his house. However, the pigs decided to break free from their confinement and left their owner's house, going on an excursion to the school. People on campus Thursday were surprised to encounter several pigs eating plants on school grounds, and Animal Control was called in to contain the situation. Meanwhile, students were taking to Snapchat and Twitter, squealing about the visitors. Many assumed that the pigs were an attempt at a senior prank, similar to one several years ago when three pigs, labeled 1, 2 and 4, were released into the school. Although the pigs were simply an accident, it may inspire current seniors to bring back the trend of senior pranks that ended years ago, since seniors involved in such pranks are liable to arrest.

COURTESY OF SHEARI FURNISS

During the course of the snow day, a group of swine friends wandered onto school property prompting a thorough investigation.

NEWS

BRIEFS

SAT/ACT testing
Students wishing to take the April 9 ACT must register by March 4. Registration for the March 5 SAT closed Feb. 23. Another SAT session will not be offered until May 7.

Graduation time
The commencement ceremony for seniors will be held at the Memorial Coliseum on Sat., June 4 at 8:00 p.m. Graduates will begin practice at 5:30 p.m.

College fair
The annual College and Career Fair will take place March 7 from 6-7:30 p.m. One junior or senior in attendance will win a $200 scholarship.

Good Friday
School will not be in session March 25 in honor of Good Friday.

FAFSA
The FAFSA deadline is March 10; however, the guidance department encourages students to complete the FAFSA by March 7 to ensure all materials are submitted in time.

Spartans Speak their stories to encourage others

Student begins speech centered program, initiative based off TED Talks

BY EMMA LEININGER
Social Media Manager

Spartans Speak is an initiative started by Mackie Schroeter (11), which is based off TED talks, a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks. Spartans Speak is the same idea; students are encouraged to speak about their past experiences that have affected their lives in some way in an eight to 10 minute speech.

"I think a lot of people have things they would like to say, and don't always get the option to say them," Schroeter said.

This was Schroeter's main inspiration behind starting Spartans Speak as, in such a big school, she wanted to give kids the opportunity to spread a message and get their words out in a public setting, no matter what the topic may be.

For this purpose, the first Spartans Speak focus area was actually quite broad. The subject that was given to the participants of Spartans Speak was "how you took a chance," the chance could range anywhere from trying out for a sports team, to moving to a new country.

Joellen Milnar's (9) chance was trying out for winter guard. Although she did not make the team, she wishes to spread positivity by speaking on her experience. Milnar hopes that by participating in Spartans Speak, she may inspire others who have been rejected to keep trying and persevere.

"I've not really had a lot of confidence in myself, and if I don't have a lot of confidence in myself, I want others to have enough confidence in themselves to do what they want to do," Milnar said.

However, you don't have to be driven towards inspiring people to participate in Spartans Speak. Trenton Cremeans (10) will be sharing his experience of joining the tech theater despite his original unwillingness. Although Cremeans is not aspiring to inspire anyone by sharing his experience and had no intentions of participating in the program, he is now glad that he is.

"I finally said I would do it (Spartans Speak), and after some thought, I realized this might be something I would actually like," Cremeans said. Any story can be shared, no matter how great or how small and still be encouraging.

"I'm afraid of failure, that's the one thing that will keep me back from something, even if I know I can do it," Creameans said. "If failure is an option I tend to stay away from it."

Although Cremeans was apprehensive about joining technical theater, he now is extremely dedicated to it and wishes to share his promising story with others.

Brittany Eastom (11) had a much different response when she heard about the new initiative. Eastom has always loved public speaking and is excited to have an outlet to share her speech so that she may help those who are struggling to adapt to a new environment, such as a new school.

"Anything that promotes inspiration or positivity, that's what I love talking about," Eastom said.

Schroeter and participants share the hope that Spartans Speak will be a continuing program. Although the candidates are limited this year, Schroeter hopes that more people will continue to join in future years and share their stories, no matter what they may be.

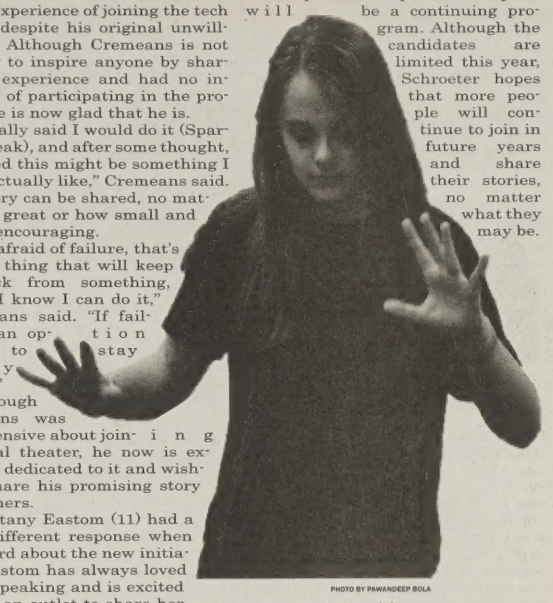


PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Joellen Milnar (9) practices her speech.

Robotics team prepares for 'Stronghold'-themed competition

Robotics team uses new, improved methodology for building competitive machines

BY MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor

Olympus Robotics Team 4982 is made up of students interested in engineering who collaborate on building robots in order to compete in competitions. At the height of their season, students devote a large amount of their schedules to robotics, verging on the number of hours of band students during the fall.

"At the beginning of the meeting, we discuss anything that needs to be discussed as a group or if we're going to change a strategy or the design," Hannah Parks (10), safety captain, said.

During the time spent building the robot, the members collaborate in small groups to finish constructing and programming the robots. The sub teams include the electrical, mechanical, programming, production, spirit and administrative teams.

"We're trying to get it so we have multiple teams working at the same time, instead of just one team trying to do one thing at a time," Robert Steverson, adviser and science teacher, said.

According to Parks, these teams, which are a new addition this year, have led to "a more organized group" overall, as each team member is working to accomplish his or her specialized task.

"Over the time, we've made lots of improvements to how our team functions and what we can do," Sam Butchko (11), co-captain, said.

The team is currently preparing for two district events, also called qualifying competitions, in March that will determine if they progress to state level competitions.

The theme this year is Stronghold, which, according to Steverson, is "like a Medieval conquest."

Butchko explained that the goal is to try build a robot that is able "to weaken a tower" in order "to climb up it at the end and capture it," as well as make it past obstacles.

Parks also mentioned an unusual addition to the robots this year: glitter.

> **"I told (the team) there had to be glitter involved somehow in the robot this year."**
> **HANNAH PARKS**
> *Safety Captain*

"I told (the team) there had to be glitter involved somehow in the robot this year," Parks said.

Aside from sparkly robots, team members are picking up valuable skills in engineering, teamwork, business and leadership. Students are taught Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) education through project based learning while being motivated by their peers.

"(The students learn) how to get a really abstract problem given to you, and then innovate and come up with a solution, and then do what you need in order to make that solution become a reality," Steverson said.

While team members are exposed to STEM influences that can benefit them in the future, Butchko explained that the engineering aspect is not the most important skill acquired.

"The robots are kind of like the tools, or the mechanism we use to attract people, to teach them skills such as gracious professionalism... which exemplifies (the value of) treating other people in a productive manner, and making sure everyone on a team is valued," Butchko said.

Butchko also emphasized that, while robotics may be difficult, the lessons learned and the end result make the challenging parts worth it.

"It's really a lot of work, and it's really tough, but at the end, you get a sort of feeling of accomplishment that is kind of hard to find in other places," said Butchko.

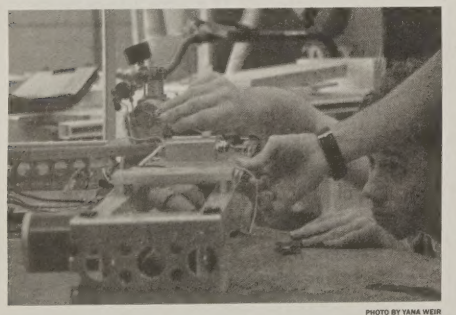


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

The robotics team is preparing for their qualifying competitions, which are in March.

Rube Goldberg team receives third place at regionals

Club attracts creative and engineering-minded students to work together on best machine

BY ARIKA AKIN
Writer

On Feb. 20, the Rube Goldberg team competed against three other schools for the best design and least assists on the Purdue University campus. This was a regional competition, within the national Rube Goldberg association framework.

The goal this year is to open an umbrella, but, as is typical of any Rube Goldberg project, many unnecessary steps occur between the beginning of the machine and the actual goal. The minimum number of steps necessary was 20, but the team used 33 steps.

Every year the team chooses a theme to model their machine after, and this year they came to a consensus that using London, specifically Mary Poppins, as an inspiration would best fit their goal. They were able to show this theme through the whimsical decorations, clocks, and buildings which decorated their necessary steps.

"There's an artistic part to it, where students can paint or design," Regann O'Shaughnessy (12) said.

The team had been working on their machine since December, but their work continued until the week of the competition. The team leaders, Kolin Behrens (12) and Ben McGuire (12), are committed to building the best machine possible, at the lowest cost.

"We use materials we find around us to make simple machines such as a pulley or a lever, which all work together to continue the progress" McGuire said.

Much like the parts within the machine, the team has to work together while constructing and designing.

"They all have to come up with their own individual ideas and they have to work them together, and so there has to be a lot of teamwork and a lot of give and take." Mark Lenfestey, team sponsor, said.

Even though the group may seem intense, and the design and building work daunting, the group allows students to use skills in both art and engineering. Anyone can be a part of this team, no matter their personal skill.

"It would be worth it for anyone to join," Behrens said. "We have a really wide range of people here, we have a whole bunch of band kids as well as engineering kids and artists, we have people to design stuff as well as make it look good."

OPINION

Students underestimate ease of healthy snacking

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

If you ask any student on this planet if he or she likes food, the answer will most likely be yes. If you then ask if he or she likes to eat, the majority of responses would be a "yes" as well. When food is a basic need for survival, food is extremely accessible today and our American culture is purely based on food and sharing food, why do young students discredit eating as an essential part of their day?

It is common knowledge students skip breakfast at a greater rate than any other meal, and if they do eat, the meal is as minuscule as a Pop Tart. 93% of Americans say "breakfast is the most important meal of the day," yet only 44% eat breakfast every day, according to the Statistic Brain Research Institute.

I have come to the conclusion that besides American's poor eating habits, we also consume our daily meals backwards. For some odd reason, several Americans have gotten in the habit of not eating breakfast or ingesting a processed food with no nutritional value such as a pop tart, and then eating a meal of higher nutritional value when the day is done. This really does not make sense. I mean, we do not need the energy a typical American dinner provides in order to sleep, we need energy-packed foods earlier in order to complete the day.

Now I know the suggestion "get up earlier and make a good breakfast" is not helpful for students who already are sleep deprived. This is where fruit and portable water bottles are immensely prolific. Stock up on good fruit, and grab a couple on the way out the door. Invest in a portable drink container. I mean it. Treat it like your best friend. Like all of my friends, my bottle is covered in star stickers and full of chocolate almond milk.

Another tactic is to prepare food for the next day the night before. This suggestion is not as difficult as words imply, I promise. If a portable drink container is my best friend, tiny Tupperware is like my side-chick. Rice, red pepper hummus and crackers, apple slices and peanut butter with chia seeds are all easy and good portable options for a quick breakfast snack. Breakfast is important, so let us treat breakfast like it is important.

> **"Keep a small stash of healthy snacks in a book bag every day."**

Of course, another tangible option is to keep a small stash of healthy snacks in a book bag every day. According to USA Today, all-day snacking can be healthier than three square daily meals. Our bodies adjust better to smaller portions of food, and therefore can digest food easier. No matter how many meals we eat a day, smaller portions might be a good idea for several American students. Truly, the food needs to be based on quality and not quantity.

Food is an integral part of all of our lives, and healthy foods to fuel students should be in higher focus. There is a lot of food out there; breakfast is more than Pop Tarts and Monster.

PARKING: *with privilege, there are problems*

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-in-Chief

The day it was announced, over three years ago, then seniors laughed in mockery and juniors cried tears of sorrow.

The senior lot would be no more.

Juniors who had waited three years for their shot at prime location parking privileges were distraught at being denied what perhaps was once one of the most coveted perks of senior year. Those juniors have since graduated sans senior parking privileges and most upcoming students have never known anything different than the general parking lots available now.

While this is not necessarily bad, the lack of designated parking has negatively impacted the highly-regarded senior experience program.

Senior experience students are unnecessarily burdened by their late arrivals in the way that every single parking space remotely close to the building is taken by the time they arrive for the beginning of third or fifth period. These students must typically walk from the north stadium lot, which is actually located on the far west side of the building, all the way to Door 4 to check in with the attendance office and that is the only door they are allowed to enter.

If senior experience students were able to at least enter the building and get out of the sometimes freezing temperatures through Doors 19 or 20, or even Door 7, that would serve as a huge benefit to those students.

792
parking passes issued as of 2/11/16

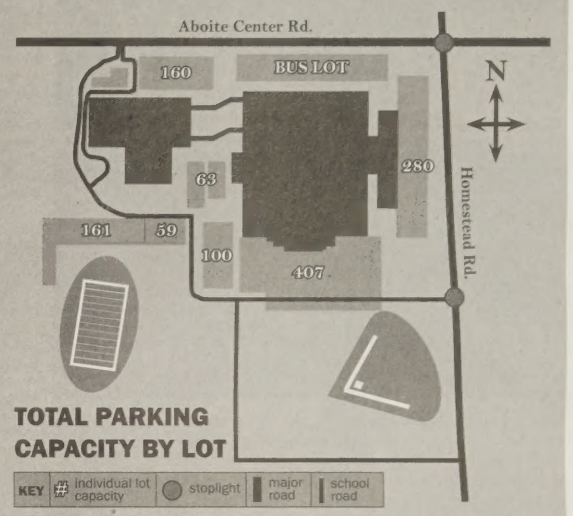
While it's understandable to have to streamline the procedure for students checking in to school as it is imperative to school safety, the lack of close proximity to the sole entrance they are allowed to use makes it difficult to relish in the 'senior experience.'

To avoid the long and cold march to Door 4, some students have taken to the practice of parking over yellowed out areas or in visitor parking spots. Not only is this unfair to the students who take their tiresome trek with gumption, but it is an egregious misuse of the senior experience privilege. Everyone wants the shortest walk possible from their car to the school, but the integrity of the program is slighted by those who abuse it.

Some seniors say to bring back the senior lot and have even started a hashtag promoting the cause. While this would admittedly be nice in terms of convenience for the Class of 2016, it is impractical in terms of productivity and manageability. The time it takes to enforce the lots is counterproductive to the duties and responsibilities of the discipline office, which manages parking privileges and has issued 792 passes as of Feb. 11.

Resurrecting the senior lot would serve no good at this point; however, there have been rumors of a senior experience lot available only to students in the program. With the alternating Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday schedules for classes, a small lot or designated area would be a practical and minimally invasive option to alleviate parking frustrations for college-bound seniors.

Parking at Homestead is a privilege, not a right; regardless, it is unfair to unintentionally punish the accelerated senior experience students with easily avoidable problems.



TO DANCE, OR NOT TO DANCE?

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

BY EMMA PEARL
Writer

It's in Grease and Happy Days. A terrifying nightmare. A wild 50s-inspired dream. The clash of dancers, the heat of the competition, the sweaty, packed gymnasium.

That's right: the infamous dance marathon. Whether loved or hated, it is fairly difficult to find someone who has no idea what a dance marathon is. What many may not know is that the school held its own marathon for a whopping 30 years, which is pretty incredible. However, tradition is not always the way to go and maybe the fading of this staple is simple proof that fresh ideas could potentially be even more valuable than what has been done in the past.

The school's dance marathon was run as a fundraiser for the athletic department and proved to be great for community-building and competition. It involved a whole lot of dancing, a slew of games, a live DJ, an all-night stay at the school and, not to mention, a gym full of students, staff and family--but there is no question as to whether or not the dance marathon was enjoyable.

No, the real question has to do with where it went. 30 years is an unbelievable amount of time to run one event, and its survival through those times proves that it truly does have merit. Nothing lasts for three whole decades without having support behind it, at least for the majority of the time.

However, eventually, the support faded.

The lack of both student interest and parent involvement sent a signal. Obviously, if there's no demand, there's no reason to continue the supply. It's simple economics.

That's not to say the marathon will not be missed, but maybe it is time for the past to be set aside. Of course, there's something to be said for tradition, but perhaps the end of the dance marathon was not a tragedy, but rather the opportunity for the school to start something new--maybe even something better.

Minds should not be stifled, and as both a school and a community, there should not be confinement as to how resources and creativity are used.

Schools thrive on encouraging kids to grow and learn and bring something new to the table. So, why do the same thing, every day, over and over and over again when all anyone needs is a little bit of ingenuity and drive to come up with a new routine, a new tradition?

There are thousands of students at this school and it only takes one to start rocking the boat.

Student section warned not to storm court

Editorial Board reacts to boys basketball win over Carroll and court rush after Curry's 3-pointer

On Feb. 19, the boys basketball team won against the Carroll Chargers for the Summit Athletic Conference (SAC) title. As its first year in the conference, it was a game to prove the team's worth in the SAC.

Coupled with the fact that the game was against long-time rival Carroll and it was Senior Night for the players and cheerleaders, emotions were running high in the back-and-forth game. After Tahj Curry (12) scored in the last second, students stormed the court. Now, administration has made it clear students who storm a court in the future are subject to legal action. While this is understandable, is it unnecessarily harsh for students who are simply celebrating to be punished? Are students capable of being respectful while celebrating?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Tweet us @TheSpartana

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Students on the court following the game.

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Tessa Virgilio

COPY EDITOR
Ethan Zweig

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

ONLINE EDITOR
Adam Swiatkowski

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

ADVISER
Terri Nowak

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Pawandeep Bola
Yana Weir

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members supports the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public Input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

BRIEFS

SAT/ACT testing
Students wishing to take the April 9 ACT must register by March 4. Registration for the March 5 SAT closed Feb. 23. Another SAT session will not be offered until May 7.

Graduation time
The commencement ceremony for seniors will be held at the Memorial Coliseum on Sat., June 4 at 8:00 p.m. Graduates will begin practice at 5:30 p.m.

College fair
The annual College and Career Fair will take place March 7 from 6-7:30 p.m. One junior or senior in attendance will win a $200 scholarship.

Good Friday
School will not be in session March 25 in honor of Good Friday.

FAFSA
The FAFSA deadline is March 10; however, the guidance department encourages students to complete the FAFSA by March 7 to ensure all materials are submitted in time.

Spartans Speak their stories to encourage others

Student begins speech centered program, initiative based off TED Talks

BY EMMA LEININGER
Social Media Manager

Spartans Speak is an initiative started by Mackie Schroeter (11), which is based off TED talks, a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks. Spartans Speak is the same idea; students are encouraged to speak about their past experiences that have affected their lives in some way in an eight to 10 minute speech.

"I think a lot of people have things they would like to say, and don't always get the option to say them," Schroeter said.

This was Schroeter's main inspiration behind starting Spartans Speak as, in such a big school, she wanted to give kids the opportunity to spread a message and get their words out in a public setting, no matter what the topic may be.

For this purpose, the first Spartans Speak focus area was actually quite broad. The subject that was given to the participants of Spartans Speak was "how you took a chance," the chance could range anywhere from trying out for a sports team, to moving to a new country.

Joellen Milnar's (9) chance was trying out for winter guard. Although she did not make the team, she wishes to spread positivity by speaking on her experience. Milnar hopes that by participating in Spartans Speak, she may inspire others who have been rejected to keep trying and persevere.

"I've not really had a lot of confidence in myself, and if I don't have a lot of confidence in myself, I want others to have enough confidence in themselves to do what they want to do," Milnar said.

However, you don't have to be driven towards inspiring people to participate in Spartans Speak. Trenton Cremeans (10) will be sharing his experience of joining the tech theater despite his original unwillingness. Although Cremeans is not aspiring to inspire anyone by sharing his experience and had no intentions of participating in the program, he is now glad that he is.

"I finally said I would do it (Spartans Speak), and after some thought, I realized this might be something I would actually like," Cremeans said. Any story can be shared, no matter how great or how small and still be encouraging.

"I'm afraid of failure, that's the one thing that will keep me back from something, even if I know I can do it," Creameans said. "If failure is an option I tend to stay away from it."

Although Cremeans was apprehensive about joining technical theater, he now is extremely dedicated to it and wishes to share his promising story with others.

Brittany Eastom (11) had a much different response when she heard about the new initiative. Eastom has always loved public speaking and is excited to have an outlet to share her speech so that she may help those who are struggling to adapt to a new environment, such as a new school.

"Anything that promotes inspiration or positivity, that's what I love talking about," Eastom said.

Schroeter and participants share the hope that Spartans Speak will be a continuing program. Although the candidates are limited this year, Schroeter hopes that more people will continue to join in future years and share their stories, no matter what they may be.

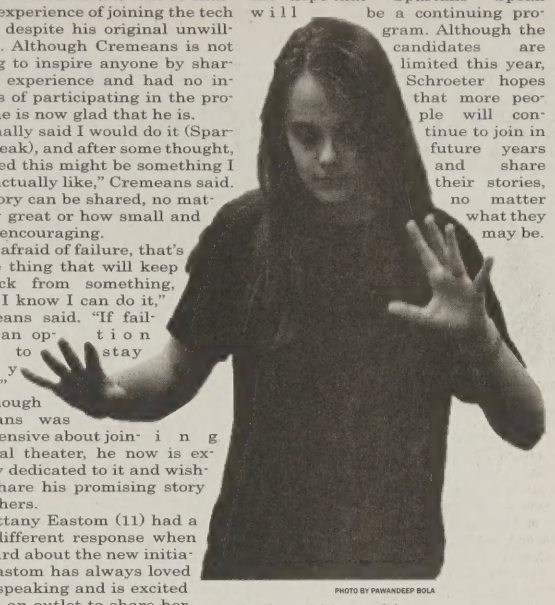


PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Joellen Milnar (9) practices her speech.

Robotics team prepares for 'Stronghold'-themed competition

Robotics team uses new, improved methodology for building competitive machines

BY MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor

Olympus Robotics Team 4982 is made up of students interested in engineering who collaborate on building robots in order to compete in competitions. At the height of their season, students devote a large amount of their schedules to robotics, verging on the number of hours of band students during the fall.

"At the beginning of the meeting, we discuss anything that needs to be discussed as a group or if we're going to change a strategy or the design," Hannah Parks (10), safety captain, said.

During the time spent building the robot, the members collaborate in small groups to finish constructing and programming the robots. The sub teams include the electrical, mechanical, programming, production, spirit and administrative teams.

"We're trying to get it so we have multiple teams working at the same time, instead of just one team trying to do one thing at a time," Robert Steverson, adviser and science teacher, said.

According to Parks, these teams, which are a new addition this year, have led to "a more organized group" overall, as each team member is working to accomplish his or her specialized task.

"Over the time, we've made lots of improvements to how our team functions and what we can do," Sam Butchko (11), co-captain, said.

The team is currently preparing for two district events, also called qualifying competitions, in March that will determine if they progress to state level competitions.

The theme this year is Stronghold, which, according to Steverson, is "like a Medieval conquest."

Butchko explained that the goal is to try build a robot that is able "to weaken a tower" in order "to climb up it at the end and capture it," as well as make it past obstacles.

Parks also mentioned an unusual addition to the robots this year: glitter.

> **"I told (the team) there had to be glitter involved somehow in the robot this year."**
> **HANNAH PARKS**
> *Safety Captain*

"I told (the team) there had to be glitter involved somehow in the robot this year," Parks said.

Aside from sparkly robots, team members are picking up valuable skills in engineering, teamwork, business and leadership. Students are taught Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) education through project based learning while being motivated by their peers.

"(The students learn) how to get a really abstract problem given to you, and then innovate and come up with a solution, and then do what you need in order to make that solution become a reality," Steverson said.

While team members are exposed to STEM influences that can benefit them in the future, Butchko explained that the engineering aspect is not the most important skill acquired.

"The robots are kind of like the tools, or the mechanism we use to attract people, to teach them skills such as gracious professionalism... which exemplifies (the value of) treating other people in a productive manner, and making sure everyone on a team is valued," Butchko said.

Butchko also emphasized that, while robotics may be difficult, the lessons learned and the end result make the challenging parts worth it.

"It's really a lot of work, and it's really tough, but at the end, you get a sort of feeling of accomplishment that is kind of hard to find in other places," said Butchko.

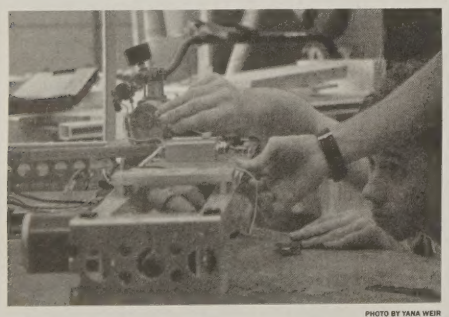


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

The robotics team is preparing for their qualifying competitions, which are in March.

Rube Goldberg team receives third place at regionals

Club attracts creative and engineering-minded students to work together on best machine

BY ARIKA AKIN
Writer

On Feb. 20, the Rube Goldberg team competed against three other schools for the best design and least assists on the Purdue University campus. This was a regional competition, within the national Rube Goldberg association framework.

The goal this year is to open an umbrella, but, as is typical of any Rube Goldberg project, many unnecessary steps occur between the beginning of the machine and the actual goal. The minimum number of steps necessary was 20, but the team used 33 steps.

Every year the team chooses a theme to model their machine after, and this year they came to a consensus that using London, specifically Mary Poppins, as an inspiration would best fit their goal. They were able to show this theme through the whimsical decorations, clocks, and buildings which decorated their necessary steps.

"There's an artistic part to it, where students can paint or design," Regann O'Shaughnessy (12) said.

The team had been working on their machine since December, but their work continued until the week of the competition. The team leaders, Kolin Behrens (12) and Ben McGuire (12), are committed to building the best machine possible, at the lowest cost.

"We use materials we find around us to make simple machines such as a pulley or a lever, which all work together to continue the progress" McGuire said.

Much like the parts within the machine, the team has to work together while constructing and designing.

"They all have to come up with their own individual ideas and they have to work them together, and so there has to be a lot of teamwork and a lot of give and take." Mark Lenfestey, team sponsor, said.

Even though the group may seem intense, and the design and building work daunting, the group allows students to use skills in both art and engineering. Anyone can be a part of this team, no matter their personal skill.

"It would be worth it for anyone to join," Behrens said. "We have a really wide range of people here, we have a whole bunch of band kids as well as engineering kids and artists, we have people to design stuff as well as make it look good."

Students underestimate ease of healthy snacking

If you ask any student on this planet if he or she likes food, the answer will most likely be yes. If you then ask if he or she likes to eat, the majority of responses would be a "yes" as well. When food is a basic need for survival, food is extremely accessible today and our American culture is purely based on food and sharing food, why do young students discredit eating as an essential part of their day?

It is common knowledge students skip breakfast at a greater rate than any other meal, and if they do eat, the meal is as minuscule as a Pop Tart. 93% of Americans say "breakfast is the most important meal of the day," yet only 44% eat breakfast every day, according to the Statistic Brain Research Institute.

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

I have come to the conclusion that besides American's poor eating habits, we also consume our daily meals backwards. For some odd reason, several Americans have gotten in the habit of not eating breakfast or ingesting a processed food with no nutritional value such as a pop tart, and then eating a meal of higher nutritional value when the day is done. This really does not make sense. I mean, we do not need the energy a typical American dinner provides in order to sleep, we need energy-packed foods earlier in order to complete the day.

Now I know the suggestion "get up earlier and make a good breakfast" is not helpful for students who already are sleep deprived. This is where fruit and portable water bottles are immensely prolific. Stock up on good fruit, and grab a couple on the way out the door. Invest in a portable drink container. I mean it. Treat it like your best friend. Like all of my friends, my bottle is covered in star stickers and full of chocolate almond milk.

Another tactic is to prepare food for the next day the night before. This suggestion is not as difficult as words imply, I promise. If a portable drink container is my best friend, tiny Tupperware is like my side-chick. Rice, red pepper hummus and crackers, apple slices and peanut butter with chia seeds are all easy and good portable options for a quick breakfast snack. Breakfast is important, so let us treat breakfast like it is important.

> "Keep a small stash of healthy snacks in a book bag every day."

Of course, another tangible option is to keep a small stash of healthy snacks in a book bag every day. According to USA Today, all-day snacking can be healthier than three square daily meals. Our bodies adjust better to smaller portions of food, and therefore can digest food easier. No matter how many meals we eat a day, smaller portions might be a good idea for several American students. Truly, the food needs to be based on quality and not quantity.

Food is an integral part of all of our lives, and healthy foods to fuel students should be in higher focus. There is a lot of food out there; breakfast is more than Pop Tarts and Monster.

PARKING: with privilege, there are problems

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-In-Chief

The day it was announced, over three years ago, then seniors laughed in mockery and juniors cried tears of sorrow.

The senior lot would be no more.

Juniors who had waited three years for their shot at prime location parking privileges were distraught at being denied what perhaps was once one of the most coveted perks of senior year. Those juniors have since graduated sans senior parking privileges and most upcoming students have never known anything different than the general parking lots available now.

While this is not necessarily bad, the lack of designated parking has negatively impacted the highly-regarded senior experience program.

Senior experience students are unnecessarily burdened by their late arrivals in the way that every single parking space remotely close to the building is taken by the time they arrive for the beginning of third or fifth period. These students must typically walk from the north stadium lot, which is actually located on the far west side of the building, all the way to Door 4 to check in with the attendance office and that is the only door they are allowed to enter.

If senior experience students were able to at least enter the building and get out of the sometimes freezing temperatures through Doors 19 or 20, or even Door 7, that would serve as a huge benefit to those students.

792
parking passes issued as of 2/11/16

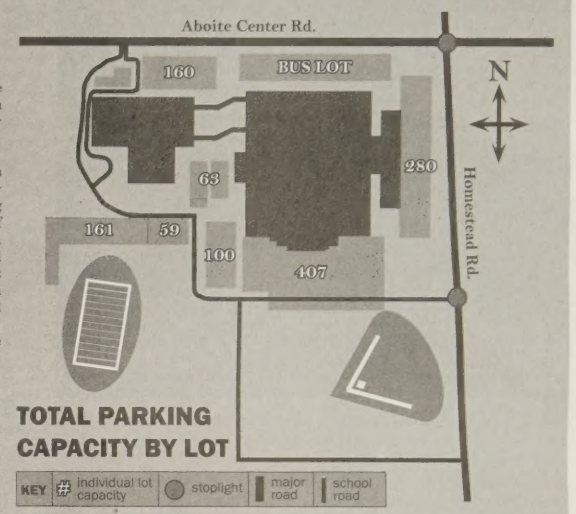
While it's understandable to have to streamline the procedure for students checking in to school as it is imperative to school safety, the lack of close proximity to the sole entrance they are allowed to use makes it difficult to relish in the 'senior experience.'

To avoid the long and cold march to Door 4, some students have taken to the practice of parking over yellowed out areas or in visitor parking spots. Not only is this unfair to the students who take their tiresome trek with gumption, but it is an egregious misuse of the senior experience privilege. Everyone wants the shortest walk possible from their car to the school, but the integrity of the program is slighted by those who abuse it.

Some seniors say to bring back the senior lot and have even started a hashtag promoting the cause. While this would admittedly be nice in terms of convenience for the Class of 2016, it is impractical in terms of productivity and manageability. The time it takes to enforce the lots is counterproductive to the duties and responsibilities of the discipline office, which manages parking privileges and has issued 792 passes as of Feb. 11.

Resurrecting the senior lot would serve no good at this point; however, there have been rumors of a senior experience lot available only to students in the program. With the alternating Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday schedules for classes, a small lot or designated area would be a practical and minimally invasive option to alleviate parking frustrations for college-bound seniors.

Parking at Homestead is a privilege, not a right; regardless, it is unfair to unintentionally punish the accelerated senior experience students with easily avoidable problems.



TO DANCE, OR NOT TO DANCE?

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

BY EMMA PEARL
Writer

It's in Grease and Happy Days. A terrifying nightmare. A wild 50s-inspired dream. The clash of dancers, the heat of the competition, the sweaty, packed gymnasium.

That's right: the infamous dance marathon. Whether loved or hated, it is fairly difficult to find someone who has no idea what a dance marathon is. What many may not know is that the school held its own marathon for a whopping 30 years, which is pretty incredible. However, tradition is not always the way to go and maybe the fading of this staple is simple proof that fresh ideas could potentially be even more valuable than what has been done in the past.

The school's dance marathon was run as a fundraiser for the athletic department and proved to be great for community-building and competition. It involved a whole lot of dancing, a slew of games, a live DJ, an all-night stay at the school and, not to mention, a gym full of students, staff and family--but there is no question as to whether or not the dance marathon was enjoyable.

No, the real question has to do with where it went. 30 years is an unbelievable amount of time to run one event, and its survival through those times proves that it truly does have merit. Nothing lasts for three whole decades without having support behind it, at least for the majority of the time.

However, eventually, the support faded.

The lack of both student interest and parent involvement sent a signal. Obviously, if there's no demand, there's no reason to continue the supply. It's simple economics.

That's not to say the marathon will not be missed, but maybe it is time for the past to be set aside. Of course, there's something to be said for tradition, but perhaps the end of the dance marathon was not a tragedy, but rather the opportunity for the school to start something new--maybe even something better.

Minds should not be stifled, and as both a school and a community, there should not be confinement as to how resources and creativity are used.

Schools thrive on encouraging kids to grow and learn and bring something new to the table. So, why do the same thing, every day, over and over and over again when all anyone needs is a little bit of ingenuity and drive to come up with a new routine, a new tradition?

There are thousands of students at this school and it only takes one to start rocking the boat.

Student section warned not to storm court

Editorial Board reacts to boys basketball win over Carroll and court rush after Curry's 3-pointer

On Feb. 19, the boys basketball team won against the Carroll Chargers for the Summit Athletic Conference (SAC) title. As its first year in the conference, it was a game to prove the team's worth in the SAC.

Coupled with the fact that the game was against long-time rival Carroll and it was Senior Night for the players and cheerleaders, emotions were running high in the back-and-forth game. After Tahj Curry (12) scored in the last second, students stormed the court. Now, administration has made it clear students who storm a court in the future are subject to legal action. While this is understandable, is it unnecessarily harsh for students who are simply celebrating to be punished? Are students capable of being respectful while celebrating?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Tweet us @TheSpartana

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Students on the court following the game.

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Tessa Virgilio

COPY EDITOR
Ethan Zweig

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

ONLINE EDITOR
Adam Swiatkowski

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

ADVISER
Terri Nowak

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Pawandeep Bola
Yana Weir

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members supports the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

designed by awbrei vachon

LIFE

Perfection at ISSMA

PHOTO BY MATTHEW KILLHAM

Patrick O'Rouke (12) will be playing the snare for his solo performance in the regional ISSMA competition this year. Above, O'Rouke warms up with a song from marching band.

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Writer

Every year in January, an estimated 200,000 students from the state of Indiana participate in the regional Indiana State School Musical Association (ISSMA) competition. These performances include solo and ensemble instrumental performances, as well as separate competitions for piano and vocal performances.

Patrick O'Rourke (12) has received a perfect score in the regional competition playing percussion instruments in both the 2015 and 2016 school years, and hopes to continue the record on the way to the state solo and ensemble competition.

"Last year I maxed out at a 9.0, which is a perfect score. (This was) a first in scyhool drumline history to my knowledge, so that was a pretty big deal, and this year at the district level I got a 9.0." O'Rourke said.

ISSMA Solos and Ensemble performers receive either a gold, silver or bronze rating for their performance. The performance music is rated in groups based on the difficulty of the piece, with group one being the highest and most difficult level of music, and the music becomes sequentially easier as the leves decrease. Students who participate in group one and receive a gold rating can choose to participate in the state competition.

While a gold medal is enough for most participators, O'Rourke is attempting to receive a perfect score for his third year, and not to mention at the state level as well.

"I am going for my third consecutive nine pointer," O'Rourke said.

O'Rourke's past experiences assure him about the possibility of getting a perfect score at the state level.

"I'm feeling pretty confident if I just keep up the good practice. The district judge gave me some pointers told me that he wanted to see at the state level for me to improve. So I (hope) can fix those and continue my perfect legacy," O'Rourke said.

Being in the drumline for a school with such a renowned marching band program has undoubtedly helped O'Rourke in honing his snare-playing skills.

"We play more notes per square foot than any other drumline for the state of Indiana. That's our motto--our mantra," O'Rourke said.

Following high school, O'Rourke wishes to continue playing in drumlines after his acceptance into college.

"I do plan to go onto the big leagues, maybe play in a drum corp. I did get a callback with a world class drumline, Rhythm X," O'Rourke said.

The state competition will take place in Indianapolis on Feb. 27, 2016, with competition from all of the talented musicians who succeeded at district level.

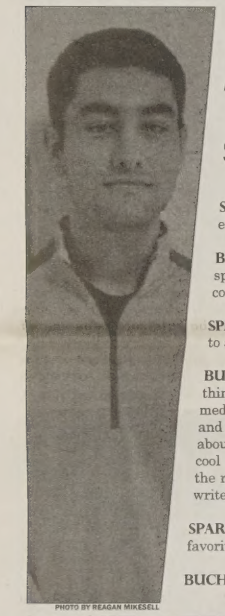


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Jim Buchholz:
The Spartan We All Wish We Were
Senior attempts to go to every Spartan sports game throughout year

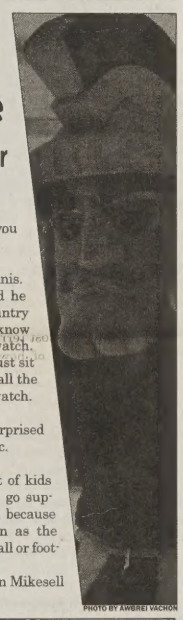


PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

SPARTANA: Before senior year, what events did you mainly go to?

BUCHHOLZ: Mostly the revenue sports, so basketball, football and a couple of baseball games.

SPARTANA: What influenced you to go to all varsity events?

BUCHHOLZ: My cousin did a similar thing down at IU for a project for her media class. She went to all the sports and did a report on it. She was telling me about it and I thought it sounded pretty cool so I thought I would do it without the reporting part because I don't like to write.

SPARTANA: Which event has been your favorite so far?

BUCHHOLZ: So far I would probably have to say tennis.The guys are so electric. Like Jordan Andrews (10), he makes it so fun to watch.

SPARTANA: Were there any funny things that happened at any events?

BUCHHOLZ: The first sport I went to, girls' golf, I showed up and everyone looked at me like I was the weirdest person ever. I just showed up and they were like, "Who's this kid? What's he doing here? No one ever shows up to these things." So that was probably the weirdest thing. Other than that, everyone else has just been excited that I showed up to watch them.

SPARTANA: Are there any spring events you are looking forward to attending?

BUCHHOLZ: I think rugby would be really cool to watch. I've never been to softball so that might be something interesting.

SPARTANA: Which event do you recommend students go to?

BUCHHOLZ: Definitely tennis. Jordan Andrews is a clown and he makes it fun to watch. Cross Country wasn't bad to watch. Once you know how it works it's really cool to watch. Bowling was fun to watch. You just sit there and watch them bowl but all the different techniques are fun to watch.

SPARTANA: Which event(s) surprised you in terms of work put into, etc.

BUCHHOLZ: All of them. A lot of kids don't get recognized. When you go support them they're really excited because they put just as much work in as the sports people go see like basketball or football.

--Reagan Mikesell

PHOTO BY LAUREN SELKING

PHOTO BY LOGAN MULLINIX

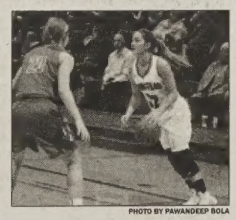


PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Preparation for this year's Academic Super Bowl begins
Students start studying chosen topics in order to perform well at Academic Super Bowl competitions throughout state

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

As events such as the NFL Super Bowl and the Puppy Bowl have come and gone, a new Super Bowl is now taking the stage: the Academic Super Bowl. The Academic Super Bowl is one of the three academic events held at the school and is a competition for all students to compete in five different subjects: English, science, social studies, mathematics and fine arts.

The unique aspect of this competition compared to others such as the Decathlon is how students do not have to compete in all subject matters, but rather only the subjects they feel strongest in.

The students interested in competing in the Academic Super Bowl signed up by joining the team's canvas page, and took a qualifying test on Feb. 17. Based on the number of students who signed up, what subject they want to compete in and what their scores are, the students will be placed into teams.

Jeff Stumpf, chemistry teacher, leads the Academic Super Bowl alongside Erin Whitt, English teacher, and Junior St-aliey, math teacher. The three teachers each help the students prepare for certain subject matters.

"In recent years, because all the students have been provided their own personal computer, we've tried to do everything digitally," Stumpf said.

After the students are put on teams, they will access the canvas page where they can find flashcards or outlines which will help them study the information for their subject. In addition to a competition, the super bowl also helps students learn more information about the given subject.

"I think it's really useful to school because some of the information I've learned from the Academic Super Bowl I've used in my school life," Susan Chen (10) said.

Chen is one of the students competing this year, but she is no stranger to academic competitions as she has done both the Spell Bowl and Decathlon. She plans on competing in the science category this year since she is currently in Honors Chemistry. Another student competing this year, Malika Ahmed (10), has only competed at the middle school level in the past.

"(In middle school), it was less rigorous I think and less competitive compared to high school because high school is another level, and they kind of increase (the difficulty) a bit," Ahmed said.

The theme for the competition this year is "Hoosier Heritage," and their first competition will be held on Mar. 2 at South Side, and students from all over the area will meet Apr. 19 at Leo. The state finals will be on May 7 at Purdue. Until then, the students are preparing and getting ready for another strong season.

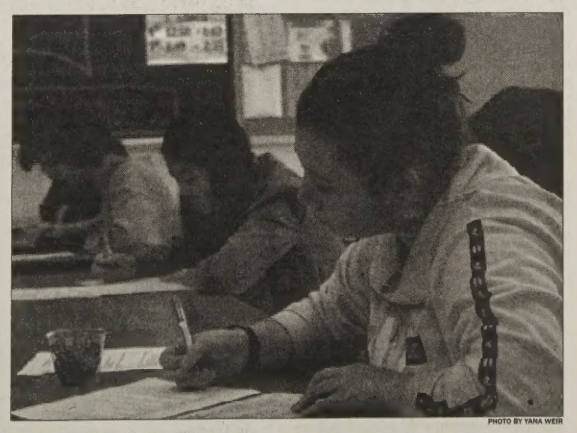


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Members participating in the Academic Super Bowl have the freedom to decide which acedemic subjects to study and compete in, and they then take placement tests to determine which team they will join.

Monster under the bed? No, it's worse: COLLEGE

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

There are a lot of seriously terrifying concepts in this world. The apocalypse. The impending World War III and its possible use of nuclear warfare. Alien abductions. Ghost children. Spiders. Accidentally getting dog slobber in your mouth. Root canals. Being completely stranded in the middle of the ocean on a makeshift raft with no food or water. The list goes on and on, but there's one single word capable of making your skin crawl in ways unprecedented by any of the aforementioned ideas: college.

To be fair, maybe college doesn't actually scare you too much, maybe just thinking about it makes you feel all excited and grown up. If it does, good for you. More than likely though, you're going to have a little bit of apprehension, anxiety or fear about it (and if you do, congratulations, you are human!).

It's true, finally taking the step into adulthood sounds incredibly liberating. Aside from certain expected regulations, you're basically free to do what you want, when you want, right? Right.

All of these hopes and dreams start forming in your mind about making new friends and walking around campus and going to awesome classes and then strolling into your cool little apartment with your buddies at the end of the day and plopping on the couch with a big bowl of Ramen singing Kumbaya into the night, and then BAM. Reality sets in.

All of the great expectations about college are dragged out of your mind kicking and screaming, and here the incredible duo of doubt and debt take the stage. Is this really what you want to do? How many times will you change your major? How are you going to pay for everything? Will you be able to manage your time without drowning in the mounds of schoolwork and responsibilities you will soon acquire?

Probably the most terrifying variable is the realization of how much things cost and how someway, you're going to have to pay for it all. You're going to have to pay for everything (unless you received an amazing grant or scholarship that will account for every penny of your college tuition and then some), and the "how" factor is what is important here.

The big tip: cut costs any way you can. I know at this point in the game, a lot of you already have things figured out and know where you're going and are about ready to lock in your final decisions, but even for you fellows, there are still going to be ways to save money. For those of you who still aren't entirely sure on what you're going to do, there's a really important element you need to acknowledge. Consider enrolling in a cheaper school or community college for the first year or so. Most likely, if you're going to go to an in-state university, your Gen Eds will transfer over to other schools easy-peasy. You could cut your tuition costs down to less than half of what you would be planning to pay.

$30,867
average student loan debt 2015
Source: Wall St. Journal

For example, deciding to go to IPFW for one year for $8000 versus going to Purdue for approximately $23000 dollars is almost three times the cheaper option. Just think about it: $23000 each year for four years. Do the math. It ain't pretty. At least if you attend a cheaper college for a year or two, you're already saving tons of valuable moola.

No one says you have to do this, but if you're one who isn't 100 percent sure about what you want to do, it may not be the best idea to go to a big college and end up wasting your precious time and money when you could be narrowing down your options by easing into the whole college thing.

College may seem incredibly intimidating, and it is, you're not wrong about that, but it doesn't have to be the big, bad, scary monster underneath your bed (and it probably will be if you make a lot of financial mistakes you'll still have to be dealing with when you're 35 years old). Just check out all of your options before you fall head over heals for adulthood. Look into prices for college, living arrangements and ways to start making money along the way, and you'll be better off by the time you start making an actual living.

Winter guard heads into competition season
Group's theme relies heavily upon emotion and falls five points short of first place

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

There is no leeway between the end of a marching band season and a new order of winter guard practices. The week following the Bands of America Grand National Championship, it is off to the races for the girls. A readiness to face last year's rival, Ben Davis High School of Indianapolis, lies at the forefront of objectives for the season.

Its 2016 show, "Where We Belong," makes tangible the battle to discover one's niche in life, a community of acceptance and the necessity of comradery.

"I feel like the show is about being looked on as the person from the outside looking in, so it's very much got the feel of being left out and kind of trying to belong somewhere that you don't really think you belong in the first place," Lauren Bond (11) said.

Progress thus far has assured the girls, instructor and their fans that the season will consist of the archetypal hard work, perseverance and surpassing of goals characteristic of the winter guard, "sport of the arts."

"(Practices) are long and involve a lot of stamina and dance technique," Allison Volk (12) said. "Depending on what we're doing that day, it can get really difficult. We get bruises and cuts, and you beat up your feet, and you have bruises everywhere to the point where you have no idea what's going on anymore, but we're working towards a goal."

The debut of the show on Jan. 30 in exhibition at Goshen High School proved a quantifiable feat, giving the team a starting point provided by the judging panel that day; the score rises significantly from the beginning to end of a season, so it is important to be judged early on, even without competitors, to measure success.

"(Jonathan Meader, guard director) told us we are exactly where we were the last three years scoring-wise (at the start of the season), so it's hard to tell where we're going but I believe it's going to be a great season," Volk said.

"Keep a small stash of healthy snacks in a book bag every day."
ALLISON VOLK (12)

The diligent girls of the winter guard have dedicated weeks to the emotional and physical components of their show. Equipment work is fine-tuned and performance aspects from lifted chins to pointed feet become compulsory; the floor judge, only feet away from the front of the performance tarp, is captious in these categories as the competition escalates approaching Indiana High School Color Guard Association (IHSCGA) State Finals on March 12.

Madi Dornseif (11) and Ashley Mueller (12) perform at Center Grove High School.

The 2015 IHSCGA State Finals willed first place in open class competition to Ben Davis. The event has since fueled the girls to perform at their maximum potential each show in pursuit of the golden label. The guard took home the silver medal, the highest placement in open class competition in the school's history.

"We would like to do the best we can; we will be grateful and it's an awesome accomplishment if that means we do competitively better than we did last year," Winter Freeman (11) said.

The Feb. 6 competition gave notice of a deficiency in the emotion evoked by the guard's performers, which they have been working to remedy since this critique. The guard took away a fifth place finish with a score of 66.60 behind Fishers High School of Fishers, Ind. Ben Davis received first with a score of 71.50.

"Our emotion is basically an air of confidence, but it is what we were lacking which is why Jonathan said we got fifth," Volk said. "As performers, we tell the story, which means we are the characters inside of a story that emit confidence for each other and the audience."

Working day in and day out honing a synchronized rifle turn-around toss or balancing a dance feature alongside a newly-taught flag phrase, the girls and their staff have broken barriers that typically surface at the opening of a season.

Uncovering weak points in a team is essential to the development of the program; the staff is able to address these prior to final competitions. This year, the staff is Meader, Geoff Goelz, Nancy Barber, David Veda, Sabrina Medert, Kate Graham and Jon Bay. It is the consensus that the overall demonstrated talent of the guard at the culmination of a season rises each year.

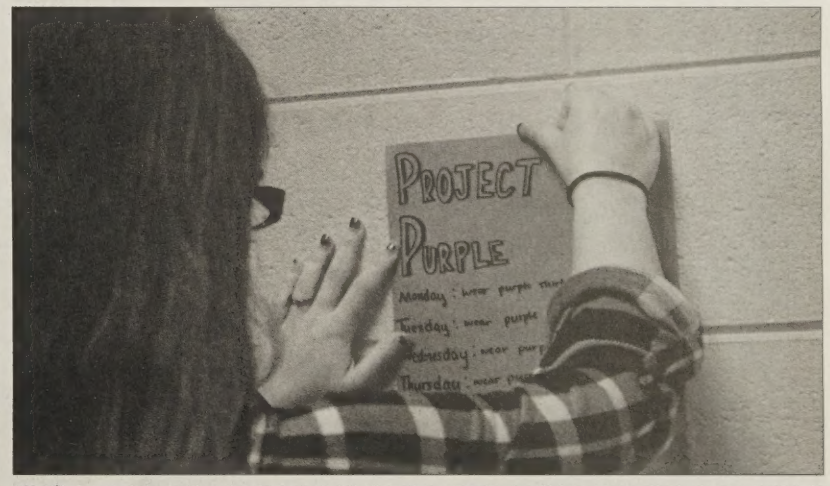
COURTESY OF KRISTINE BOND

Allison Sterling (11) lifts Winter Freeman (11) in the air.

"This is definitely a younger guard, which provides its challenges but ultimately they're good and there is a lot of potential," Volk said. "Over this month, they've definitely gotten better."

The support for the girls runs through their extensive alumni base, peers and, chiefly, each other; therein lays confirmation of the girls' success on and off the floor.

"We just push each other and see how far we can go," Bond said. "We hope to walk away from the season knowing we were the best that we could be."



Liz Bell (9) puts up a poster to spread the word about Project Purple. "I think Project Purple went really well considering we only planned it in less than two weeks," Bell said.

SADD continues Project Purple for second year
Substance abuse awareness group plans The Purple Project despite short time constraint

BY YANA WEIR
Photographer

Recently, Students Against Destructive Decisions group (SADD) has been spreading the word against substance abuse by participating in the international effort of The Purple Project. This constructive push was founded by Chris Herren, a former professional basketball player, when his idea took off after he spoke at a local high school in 2011. During his speech, the students seated in the front row wore purple shirts in support of their pledge to be substance free. Their purple shirts gave Herren the idea of the Purple Project.

Herren's inspiring story of overcoming his addictions has gone national and SADD wanted to bring awareness to high school age students who are using drugs.

"We want them to know that they don't need to do drugs to be their best self," Elizabeth Bell (9) said.

Although the club has been around for a while, "Project Purple" only started two years ago, and SADD plans on keeping it an annual tradition. Ian Laird (12), president of SADD, is proud of all the things the club does to bring people together. The combination of different grade levels and personalities contributes to the club's overall goal: to benefit the school.

RaeAnn Dobler (11), co-president of SADD, admits there was little time to plan the Purple Project this year, but even given the time constraint, Dobler feels the turnout was decent.

"(It was) a bit of a success, (but) there's always more we can do to make it better in the future years," Dobler said.

Even though "Project Purple" was not as successful as the club had hoped, SADD's ideas and projects have had an impact on the school.

"The ideas impact in a good way and I want to model my behavior after what they're promoting," Alyssa Wendlandt (12) said. "(I want to say) 'thank you' (to everyone) for trying to make this school and community a better place and trying to help those students that don't make the best decisions."

designed by awbrei vachon

LIFE

Perfection at ISSMA

PHOTO BY MATTHEW KILLHAM

Patrick O'Rouke (12) will be playing the snare for his solo performance in the regional ISSMA competition this year. Above, O'Rouke warms up with a song from marching band.

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Writer

Every year in January, an estimated 200,000 students from the state of Indiana participate in the regional Indiana State School Musical Association (ISSMA) competition. These performances include solo and ensemble instrumental performances, as well as separate competitions for piano and vocal performances.

Patrick O'Rourke (12) has received a perfect score in the regional competition playing percussion instruments in both the 2015 and 2016 school years, and hopes to continue the record on the way to the state solo and ensemble competition.

"Last year I maxed out at a 9.0, which is a perfect score. (This was) a first in scyhool drumline history to my knowledge, so that was a pretty big deal, and this year at the district level I got a 9.0." O'Rourke said.

ISSMA Solos and Ensemble performers receive either a gold, silver or bronze rating for their performance. The performance music is rated in groups based on the difficulty of the piece, with group one being the highest and most difficult level of music, and the music becomes sequentially easier as the leves decrease. Students who participate in group one and receive a gold rating can choose to participate in the state competition.

While a gold medal is enough for most participators, O'Rourke is attempting to receive a perfect score for his third year, and not to mention at the state level as well.

"I am going for my third consecutive nine pointer," O'Rourke said.

O'Rourke's past experiences assure him about the possibility of getting a perfect score at the state level.

"I'm feeling pretty confident if I just keep up the good practice. The district judge gave me some pointers told me that he wanted to see at the state level for me to improve. So I (hope) can fix those and continue my perfect legacy," O'Rourke said.

Being in the drumline for a school with such a renowned marching band program has undoubtedly helped O'Rourke in honing his snare-playing skills.

"We play more notes per square foot than any other drumline for the state of Indiana. That's our motto--our mantra," O'Rourke said.

Following high school, O'Rourke wishes to continue playing in drumlines after his acceptance into college.

"I do plan to go onto the big leagues, maybe play in a drum corp. I did get a callback with a world class drumline, Rhythm X," O'Rourke said.

The state competition will take place in Indianapolis on Feb. 27, 2016, with competition from all of the talented musicians who succeeded at district level.

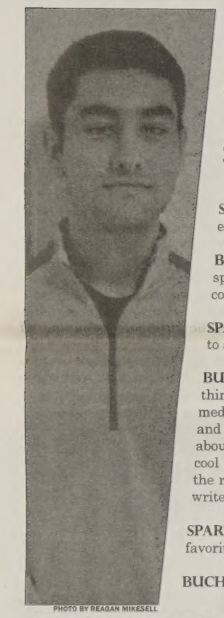


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

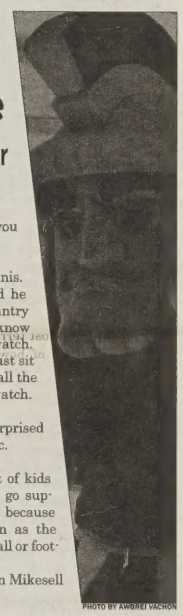


PHOTO BY AWBREI VACHON

Jim Buchholz:
The Spartan We All Wish We Were
Senior attempts to go to every Spartan sports game throughout year

SPARTANA: Before senior year, what events did you mainly go to?

BUCHHOLZ: Mostly the revenue sports, so basketball, football and a couple of baseball games.

SPARTANA: What influenced you to go to all varsity events?

BUCHHOLZ: My cousin did a similar thing down at IU for a project for her media class. She went to all the sports and did a report on it. She was telling me about it and I thought it sounded pretty cool so I thought I would do it without the reporting part because I don't like to write.

SPARTANA: Which event has been your favorite so far?

BUCHHOLZ: So far I would probably have to say tennis.The guys are so electric. Like Jordan Andrews (10), he makes it so fun to watch.

SPARTANA: Were there any funny things that happened at any events?

BUCHHOLZ: The first sport I went to, girls' golf, I showed up and everyone looked at me like I was the weirdest person ever. I just showed up and they were like, "Who's this kid? What's he doing here? No one ever shows up to these things." So that was probably the weirdest thing. Other than that, everyone else has just been excited that I showed up to watch them.

SPARTANA: Are there any spring events you are looking forward to attending?

BUCHHOLZ: I think rugby would be really cool to watch. I've never been to softball so that might be something interesting.

SPARTANA: Which event do you recommend students go to?

BUCHHOLZ: Definitely tennis. Jordan Andrews is a clown and he makes it fun to watch. Cross Country wasn't bad to watch. Once you know how it works it's really cool to watch. Bowling was fun to watch. You just sit there and watch them bowl but all the different techniques are fun to watch.

SPARTANA: Which event(s) surprised you in terms of work put into, etc.

BUCHHOLZ: All of them. A lot of kids don't get recognized. When you go support them they're really excited because they put just as much work in as the sports people go see like basketball or football.

--Reagan Mikesell

PHOTO BY LAUREN SELKING

PHOTO BY LOGAN MULLINIX

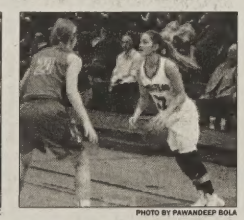


PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Preparation for this year's Academic Super Bowl begins
Students start studying chosen topics in order to perform well at Academic Super Bowl competitions throughout state

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

As events such as the NFL Super Bowl and the Puppy Bowl have come and gone, a new Super Bowl is now taking the stage: the Academic Super Bowl. The Academic Super Bowl is one of the three academic events held at the school and is a competition for all students to compete in five different subjects: English, science, social studies, mathematics and fine arts.

The unique aspect of this competition compared to others such as the Decathlon is how students do not have to compete in all subject matters, but rather only the subjects they feel strongest in.

The students interested in competing in the Academic Super Bowl signed up by joining the team's canvas page, and took a qualifying test on Feb. 17. Based on the number of students who signed up, what subject they want to compete in and what their scores are, the students will be placed into teams.

Jeff Stumpf, chemistry teacher, leads the Academic Super Bowl alongside Erin Whitt, English teacher, and Junior Staliey, math teacher. The three teachers each help the students prepare for certain subject matters.

"In recent years, because all the students have been provided their own personal computer, we've tried to do everything digitally," Stumpf said.

After the students are put on teams, they will access the canvas page where they can find flashcards or outlines which will help them study the information for their subject. In addition to a competition, the super bowl also helps students learn more information about the given subject.

"I think it's really useful to school because some of the information I've learned from the Academic Super Bowl I've used in my school life," Susan Chen (10) said.

Chen is one of the students competing this year, but she is no stranger to academic competitions as she has done both the Spell Bowl and Decathlon. She plans on competing in the science category this year since she is currently in Honors Chemistry. Another student competing this year, Malika Ahmed (10), has only competed at the middle school level in the past.

"(In middle school), it was less rigorous I think and less competitive compared to high school because high school is another level, and they kind of increase (the difficulty) a bit," Ahmed said.

The theme for the competition this year is "Hoosier Heritage," and their first competition will be held on Mar. 2 at South Side, and students from all over the area will meet Apr. 19 at Leo. The state finals will be on May 7 at Purdue. Until then, the students are preparing and getting ready for another strong season.

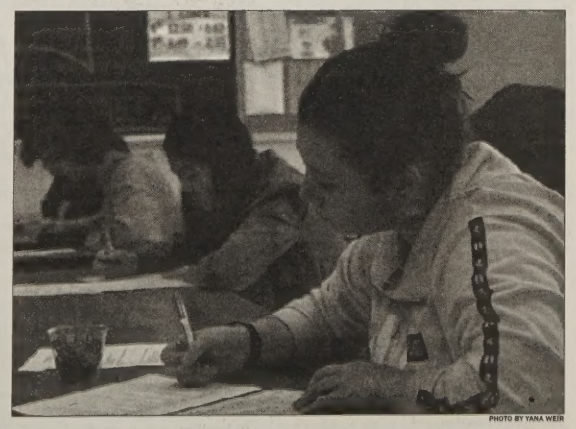


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Members participating in the Academic Super Bowl have the freedom to decide which acedemic subjects to study and compete in, and they then take placement tests to determine which team they will join.

designed by melana rossi

Monster under the bed? No, it's worse: COLLEGE

There are a lot of seriously terrifying concepts in this world. The apocalypse. The impending World War III and its possible use of nuclear warfare. Alien abductions. Ghost children. Spiders. Accidentally getting dog slobber in your mouth. Root canals. Being completely stranded in the middle of the ocean on a makeshift raft with no food or water. The list goes on and on, but there's one single word capable of making your skin crawl in ways unprecedented by any of the aforementioned ideas: college.

To be fair, maybe college doesn't actually scare you too much, maybe just thinking about it makes you feel all excited and grown up. If it does, good for you. More than likely though, you're going to have a little bit of apprehension, anxiety or fear about it (and if you do, congratulations, you are human!).

It's true, finally taking the step into adulthood sounds incredibly liberating.

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

Aside from certain expected regulations, you're basically free to do what you want, when you want, right? Right.

All of these hopes and dreams start forming in your mind about making new friends and walking around campus and going to awesome classes and then strolling into your cool little apartment with your buddies at the end of the day and plopping on the couch with a big bowl of Ramen singing Kumbaya into the night, and then BAM. Reality sets in.

All of the great expectations about college are dragged out of your mind kicking and screaming, and here the incredible duo of doubt and debt take the stage. Is this really what you want to do? How many times will you change your major? How are you going to pay for everything? Will you be able to manage your time without drowning in the mounds of schoolwork and responsibilities you will soon acquire?

Probably the most terrifying variable is the realization of how much things cost and how someway, you're going to have to pay for it all. You're going to have to pay for everything (unless you received an amazing grant or scholarship that will account for every penny of your college tuition and then some), and the "how" factor is what is important here.

The big tip: cut costs any way you can. I know at this point in the game, a lot of you already have things figured out and know where you're going and are about ready to lock in your final decisions, but even for you fellows, there are still going to be ways to save money. For those of you who still aren't entirely sure on what you're going to do, there's a really important element you need to acknowledge. Consider enrolling in a cheaper school or community college for the first year or so. Most likely, if you're going to go to an in-state university, your Gen Eds will transfer over to other schools easy-peasy. You could cut your tuition costs down to less than half of what you would be planning to pay.

$30,867
average student loan debt 2015
Source: Wall St. Journal

For example, deciding to go to IPFW for one year for $8000 versus going to Purdue for approximately $23000 dollars is almost three times the cheaper option. Just think about it: $23000 each year for four years. Do the math. It ain't pretty. At least if you attend a cheaper college for a year or two, you're already saving tons of valuable moola.

No one says you have to do this, but if you're one who isn't 100 percent sure about what you want to do, it may not be the best idea to go to a big college and end up wasting your precious time and money when you could be narrowing down your options by easing into the whole college thing.

College may seem incredibly intimidating, and it is, you're not wrong about that, but it doesn't have to be the big, bad, scary monster underneath your bed (and it probably will be if you make a lot of financial mistakes you'll still have to be dealing with when you're 35 years old). Just check out all of your options before you fall head over heals for adulthood. Look into prices for college, living arrangements and ways to start making money along the way, and you'll be better off by the time you start making an actual living.

Winter guard heads into competition season
Group's theme relies heavily upon emotion and falls five points short of first place

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

There is no leeway between the end of a marching band season and a new order of winter guard practices. The week following the Bands of America Grand National Championship, it is off to the races for the girls. A readiness to face last year's rival, Ben Davis High School of Indianapolis, lies at the forefront of objectives for the season.

Its 2016 show, "Where We Belong," makes tangible the battle to discover one's niche in life, a community of acceptance and the necessity of comradery.

"I feel like the show is about being looked on as the person from the outside looking in, so it's very much got the feel of being left out and kind of trying to belong somewhere that you don't really think you belong in the first place," Lauren Bond (11) said.

Progress thus far has assured the girls, instructor and their fans that the season will consist of the archetypal hard work, perseverance and surpassing of goals characteristic of the winter guard, "sport of the arts."

"(Practices) are long and involve a lot of stamina and dance technique," Allison Volk (12) said. "Depending on what we're doing that day, it can get really difficult. We get bruises and cuts, and you beat up your feet, and you have bruises everywhere to the point where you have no idea what's going on anymore, but we're working towards a goal."

The debut of the show on Jan. 30 in exhibition at Goshen High School proved a quantifiable feat, giving the team a starting point provided by the judging panel that day; the score rises significantly from the beginning to end of a season, so it is important to be judged early on, even without competitors, to measure success.

"(Jonathan Meader, guard director) told us we are exactly where we were the last three years scoring-wise (at the start of the season), so it's hard to tell where we're going but I believe it's going to be a great season," Volk said.

"Keep a small stash of healthy snacks in a book bag every day."
ALLISON VOLK (12)

The diligent girls of the winter guard have dedicated weeks to the emotional and physical components of their show. Equipment work is fine-tuned and performance aspects from lifted chins to pointed feet become compulsory; the floor judge, only feet away from the front of the performance tarp, is captious in these categories as the competition escalates approaching Indiana High School Color Guard Association (IHSCGA) State Finals on March 12.

The 2015 IHSCGA State Finals willed first place in open class competition to Ben Davis. The event has since fueled the girls to perform at their maximum potential each show in pursuit of the golden label. The guard took home the silver medal, the highest placement in open class competition in the school's history.

Madi Dornself (11) and Ashley Mueller (12) perform at Center Grove High School.

COURTESY OF KRISTINE BOND

Allison Sterling (11) lifts Winter Freeman (11) in the air.

"We would like to do the best we can; we will be grateful and it's an awesome accomplishment if that means we do competitively better than we did last year," Winter Freeman (11) said.

The Feb. 6 competition gave notice of a deficiency in the emotion evoked by the guard's performers, which they have been working to remedy since this critique. The guard took away a fifth place finish with a score of 66.60 behind Fishers High School of Fishers, Ind. Ben Davis received first with a score of 71.50.

"Our emotion is basically an air of confidence, but it is what we were lacking which is why Jonathan said we got fifth," Volk said. "As performers, we tell the story, which means we are the characters inside of a story that emit confidence for each other and the audience."

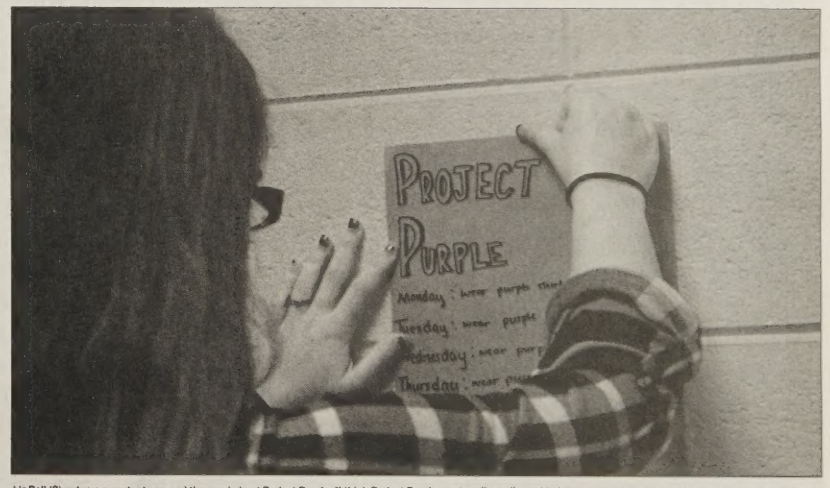
Working day in and day out honing a synchronized rifle turn-around toss or balancing a dance feature alongside a newly-taught flag phrase, the girls and their staff have broken barriers that typically surface at the opening of a season.

Uncovering weak points in a team is essential to the development of the program; the staff is able to address these prior to final competitions. This year, the staff is Meader, Geoff Goelz, Nancy Barber, David Veda, Sabrina Medert, Kate Graham and Jon Bay. It is the consensus that the overall demonstrated talent of the guard at the culmination of a season rises each year.

"This is definitely a younger guard, which provides its challenges but ultimately they're good and there is a lot of potential," Volk said. "Over this month, they've definitely gotten better."

The support for the girls runs through their extensive alumni base, peers and, chiefly, each other; therein lays confirmation of the girls' success on and off the floor.

"We just push each other and see how far we can go," Bond said. "We hope to walk away from the season knowing we were the best that we could be."



Liz Bell (9) puts up a poster to spread the word about Project Purple. "I think Project Purple went really well considering we only planned it in less than two weeks," Bell said.

SADD continues Project Purple for second year
Substance abuse awareness group plans The Purple Project despite short time constraint

BY YANA WEIR
Photographer

Recently, Students Against Destructive Decisions group (SADD) has been spreading the word against substance abuse by participating in the international effort of The Purple Project. This constructive push was founded by Chris Herren, a former professional basketball player, when his idea took off after he spoke at a local high school in 2011. During his speech, the students seated in the front row wore purple shirts in support of their pledge to be substance free. Their purple shirts gave Herren the idea of the Purple Project.

Herren's inspiring story of overcoming his addictions has gone national and SADD wanted to bring awareness to high school age students who are using drugs.

"We want them to know that they don't need to do drugs to be their best self," Elizabeth Bell (9) said.

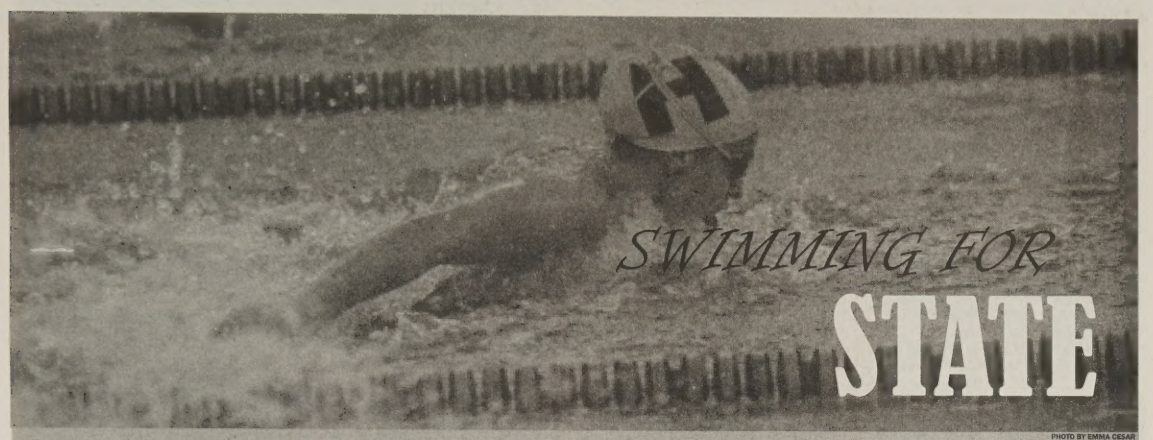
Although the club has been around for a while, "Project Purple" only started two years ago, and SADD plans on keeping it an annual tradition. Ian Laird (12), president of SADD, is proud of all the things the club does to bring people together. The combination of different grade levels and personalities contributes to the club's overall goal: to benefit the school.

RaeAnn Dobler (11), co-president of SADD, admits there was little time to plan the Purple Project this year, but even given the time constraint, Dobler feels the turnout was decent.

"(It was) a bit of a success, (but) there's always more we can do to make it better in the future years," Dobler said.

Even though "Project Purple" was not as successful as the club had hoped, SADD's ideas and projects have had an impact on the school.

"The ideas impact in a good way and I want to model my behavior after what they're promoting," Alyssa Wendlandt (12) said. "(I want to say) 'thank you' (to everyone) for trying to make this school and community a better place and trying to help those students that don't make the best decisions."



SWIMMING FOR STATE

PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

Katie Ducker comes up for air, preparing to take next stroke

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

Neon-pink hair is tucked into violent yellow swim caps blazing with a royal blue "H". A leg untouched by razors for months begins to climb up onto the starting block. Boys stand along the edge of the pool, their bleached and shaven heads shaking as they jump and fist pump as the starter's echoing buzzer signals the start of another race. The volume of screams from the clusters of teammates, bleachers full of proud parents, and frantically passionate coaches reverberates around Summit's natatorium during a heated swim meet, where silence is unheard of.

Hundreds of practices are stuffed into the chlorine-infested parkas of any swimmer, yet these athletes tirelessly return to the pool daily, sometimes even twice a day, to train through painstakingly difficult sets of demanding cardio, goggle-encrusted eyes eternally fixed on the time clocks. Urban legend has it that swimmers choke on more water than they breathe air, Chlorine is said to run through their hair follicles, which some shampoo providers have taken advantage of. Swimmer's ear is more common than having brown eyes. Some call this dedication insane, some call it disciplined, and others still shrug it off and say that there is no greater reward than having the pleasure to guiltlessly eat 4 cheeseburgers a sitting and proudly display a "Homestead Swimming" sticker their car windshield. As the season comes to a close, the Seniors reflected on nostalgic memories from their swimming careers, as some of them are ending with their high school graduation.

When asked for one word to describe this season, Megan Salzmann (12) replied, "Considering all the ups and downs we had, we finished the season strong, so I'd say it was 'memorable'."

"I would describe the season as fire," said Alex Maher (12), ""because we not only basically lit the pool on fire with all of our fast swimming, but we also rekindled the flame of our team by becoming more of a unit and working closer together, encouraging one another during practice and meets, etc."

Recently, many heads throughout the hallways sported unnaturally blonde hair, but this tradition is nothing new to the boys' swim team. Many traditions have been maintained for years, bonding all members of the swimming family.

"My favorite memory," said Sam Hagedorn (12), "is making 'Donald's runs after morning practice before school with the boys." The high activity of a swimmer's metabolism eliminates stress involved with eating unhealthy foods.

The girl's team has traditions of their own, but theirs seem to make the biggest statements at the pool. "Our biggest team ritual is not shaving our legs. We don't shave from the beginning of our season-mid-September-to our sectional meet in February. It used to freak me out as a freshman, and now it's completely normal," said Jordan Nussear (12).

On top of an extreme hygienic dedication to teammates, the girls have a close bond as a result of countless hours together. "We do a lot of team dinners and sometimes we will go out and have breakfast after our morning practices. One time we were at a team dinner...we walked outside and all the cars were saran wrapped and teepeed, which was funny," said Emily Thrasher (12).

Pranks, however, don't seem to play a dominant role in team comradery. The girl's and guy's teams seem closer than their kneeskins, tighter than their latex caps, and thicker than their leg hair.

The team was unfortunately removed from the NHC (conference) meet, however seniors who experienced the NHC in their earlier years don't seem to mind its absence too much.

"It was really just a meet with a trophy at the end," said Mark Hammes (12). "We did make a cool cheer though, part of which joked about us getting 'kicked out the NHC'".

Katie Ducker (12), agreed, elaborating that "not much changed without an actual conference meet this year because our coach worked with the Carroll and Northridge coaches to plan a meet in place of [it]...the only difference was that it was a tri-meet instead of competing for the conference title."

Moving forward without a conference may have even been a blessing in disguise to some swimmers. Cameron Frank (12) said that the absence of a conference "opened the door for some expanded opportunities to race teams from other parts of the state that we hadn't had much of a chance to race before."

Although the senior swimmers will soon rid their bodies of Summit's chlorinated waters permanently, many are hopeful that their positive impacts on the underclassmen will keep their legacies alive and thriving.

Chip Herendeen (12) took this long-lasting concept from past upperclassmen. " I feel that I most strongly contribute a sense of mentor-ship. As an eighth grader, the seniors on the team took an interest in me, and this kept me engaged and excited to swim. I try to do the same by reaching out to the younger kids on the team."

Cameron Frank continued with this concept, saying that he felt his "biggest contribution to the team is leadership and laying the groundwork for future seasons by setting a good example and high expectations for the rest of the team,"

Emily Thrasher (12) also believed that she had an obligation to the girls' team to mentor the younger teammates. "I feel like I can contribute a lot of experience to the underclassmen. It's their first time going to meets like sectionals and state and it's totally different: it can be very nerve wracking, but I like to think that I can help everyone have fun and swim their best times."

As another season in the pool dries up, the seniors are bitter-sweet, yet relieved, for they will be able to shave their legs weekly, dye their hair whenever they'd like, and lose the traumatic effects of Swimmer's Ear.

STATS

-- Boys swim won the Hamilton Southeastern Invite for the first time ever this season.

-- Boys swim is going to state in every event this year

-- 2016 was the first year a freshman won first in state dive

-- Girls swim placed second at sectionals and seventh at state

-- Boys swim placed first in sectionals with 525.5 points

-- Boys dive took first, second, and third place at sectionals

PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

Kayla Luarde (10) completes her front twister

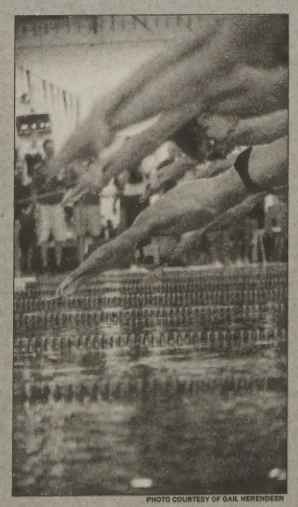


PHOTO COURTESY OF GAIL HERENDEEN

Homestead leads as boys jump off starting blocks

The benefits of staying active for any lifestyle

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

While the end of a sports season can seem like the biggest relief, it should not mean that the physical aspects should stop when the sport does. Eventually there comes a time when a player needs to prepare for the next time around, and while the motivation may not be strong to get up and exercise, it will pay off immensely once the season rolls around again.

While most sports do hold conditioning sessions before their regular season starts, they will not come easy. Pre-season conditioning is actually decently vigorous most of the time, in order to get players' bodies ready for the season to come. This is why it is rather difficult for many players to jump into conditioning after not having done much physical activity since the last season ended.

Not only is it difficult for many, but it can also be dangerous to some. Muscles tighten up over time of not being used passed their every day limit, and jumping right into vigorous conditioning can cause them to strain, cramp or tear. These types of injuries are detrimental to an athlete, but can be avoided easily in most situations.

Staying in shape during off-season does not always mean a three mile run every day, nor does it mean maintaining any routine of that level of physicality. While some have this capability, it is not the only beneficial way to keep moving.

Weight lifting is one way to keep a player's muscles warmed up and improve their overall physical strength. Simple fitness machines are beneficial ways of staying in shape as well, such as ellipticals or stationary bikes. Home workout videos are always available for a small cost, such as P90X or Insanity.

These types of workouts do not have to be done all that often either, but just enough to keep the player's metabolism up. This way, once the actual season or official conditioning starts, he or she will not have as much trouble keeping up with the first few days of the workout, because their body will already be semi-prepared for it.

Not only is keeping conditioned beneficial to the player, but their team and coaches as well. If a coach's players are already in good enough shape, they can move onto other things they may not have had time for, which would be different for every sport. Overall, already having the big things out of the way leaves more room to focus on the little things that helps everyone improve as a team. While coaches do not expect all of their players to be able to pick up right where they left off, they should not have to completely recondition themselves at the beginning of every season.

Outside of sports, staying in shape is beneficial to everyone. Regular physical activity can boost a person's energy, which improves them as a student as well, allowing them to be more alert in and out of school. It also improves their mood, because the physical activity stimulates different brain chemicals that leave people feeling happier and more relaxed. Exercise also improves sleeping patterns, which is again beneficial to students who are lacking sleep.

If exercising alone is not motivating enough, training with a partner is always beneficial. If two people are on the same team, this is also beneficial because they know what the need to work on as a team and individually, and can assist each other in these tasks.

It is of course difficult to find time to exercise in the busy schedule of a student athlete, but none of these things need to take place every day. A trip to the gym or your own home workout a few times a week in enough to keep a person's blood flowing and muscles loosened up.

Overall, exercise is beneficial for a person's body, mind and athletic career. There is always a benefit to staying active.

POSTSEASON RUN CUT SHORT

PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

The student section gets rowdy at the girls basketball semi-state game at Carroll High School against Penn High School, hoping the girls pull for a win and continue to state for another year

BY ADAM SWIATKOWSKI
Online Editor

26-3.

So close.

The girls basketball team made it to the top four in the state before being narrowly beat out by Penn, their season record ending at 26-3. The powerhouse team that Homestead has become in recent years was unable to reach the ultimate goal, falling out painfully at semi-state after an uncharacteristic game.

"I was crushed, honestly, with it being my last season," Savannah Buck (12) said. "We missed some shots that we normally make, we turned the ball over too much, and defensively we weren't able to contain the ball: I don't know if it was the nerves, but it seems like it made a perfect storm of things that could go wrong for us."

Unfortunately, it was not the right night for the Lady Spartans, as nothing seemed to go their way; shots bouncing just off the rim, bad bounces on passes and an overall uncertainty crept into the game, disrupting the team's usual tendency of precision. However, the team stayed resilient, fighting all the way to the end.

"We worked well together, but the main problem was turnovers; we didn't take care of the ball," Buck said. "We didn't panic, and stuck together through all the ups and downs of the game. I led the team the best I could and tried to keep their heads in it, and I know I did everything I could and left it all out there."

There were some positives to take away from the game, as the team did stay relatively close to Penn and gave them pressure from various fronts as they fought to regain the lead.

"Our post play was good and our guards matched up really well and did (their jobs)," Karissa McLaughlin (11) said. "It just didn't fall our way and it was unfortunate, especially since our shooting percentage wasn't even close to our average. There were several weaknesses during that game that weren't a part of our regular performance, and we didn't play to what we know are capable of."

Leading up to the game, the team studied their opponents extensively,understanding what they would have to face once they came out onto the court and determining how they would minimize Penn's threats. It was not an easy task, and there were several aspects of the game that perhaps evaded the Spartans, in face of nerves and pressure.

"Penn was a very good team and we didn't do our job effectively when marking their key shooters, sometimes we just left them open," McLaughlin said. "These were all just silly mistakes we could avoid, that we talked about in practice, but it feels like we weren't mentally ready and prepared to go after (the semi-state game). How we came out for the game is not what I expected, even though I felt like we had so much energy and emotion. It just didn't transfer out onto the court."

Despite the fall at semi-state, the girls team had a wildly impressive season, with many highlights coming across their extensive domination. The events and memories made hold a deep place in the hearts of the girls, especially seniors such as Buck, whose four year service to the team came to a conclusion.

"The beginning of the season was amazing since we stayed undefeated for so long, and we won the SAC tournament by over 40 points and then on top of that won the new conference," Buck said. "The biggest accomplishment was just to play in semi-state, it's really special to be in the top four (in Indiana) and be playing at such a high level, as well as handling the adversity we faced while going through the postseason. I'm also so proud of how all the girls on the team improved their game and how we came together across the season and accomplished so much."

With Buck and seniors Lindley Kistler, Nicole Weaver and Nkiru Ezeakudo all leaving, this year's junior class and sophomore classes will need to step up and take the reins to the girls basketball program. Other starters from the current year such as McLaughlin, Madisen Parker (11) and Jazmyne Geist (11) will take on bigger roles as they are tasked with a season that will bring just as high expectations for a strong trip through the postseason.

"I know that I will be trying to push everyone to be the best they possibly can be during the offseason," Geist said. "We have a lot of time until next year but I want to be the one to encourage all of my teammates and help them maintain focus on next year's challenges after this year's seniors graduate."

McLaughlin, too, understands the role she will take as a senior next year, knowing what will need to be done during the offseason and how she will motivate the team. The girls team plans to travel to the Best of Maryland tournament this summer in Washington DC to both bond as a team and to gain exposure to higher opponents that will lend itself to high-pressure games back at home.

"Next year being my senior year, I will need to take on a leadership role, like how Savannah (Buck) played a big leadership role and was very vocal, trying to hype up the team (during semi-state) when we were down," McLaughlin said. "I want to go out with a bang and make one more postseason run through being a leader by example both on and off the court for my teammates, because I really do care about them. (The junior girls) have all the experience we need by getting to state last year and semi-state this year, so we know what it feels like to be in difficult positions, and how to fight back. We have high motivation to work harder and go back because this is our last go at (the state championship)."

PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

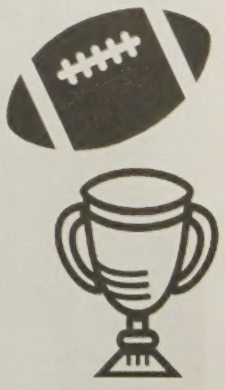
Savannah Buck (12) and Nicole Weaver (12) get each other hype to fight for their win against Penn

Opinions on Superbowl 50

"Nothing to exciting happened but I did enjoy most of the commercials and all the food I had to eat." - Kameran Etemadi

"To be honest, I didn't really care who won. All that I watched was the halftime show." - Abby Burns

"I think it was a good game to watch because you had the #1 defense going up against the #1 offense. Then you had another good defense and another great offense so this game was going to come down to the defenses." - Ross Kroterfield



SWIMMING FOR STATE

PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

Katie Ducker comes up for air, preparing to take next stroke

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

Neon-pink hair is tucked into violent yellow swim caps blazing with a royal blue "H". A leg untouched by razors for months begins to climb up onto the starting block. Boys stand along the edge of the pool, their bleached and shaven heads shaking as they jump and fist pump as the starter's echoing buzzer signals the start of another race. The volume of screams from the clusters of teammates, bleachers full of proud parents, and franticly passionate coaches reverberates around Summit's natatorium during a heated swim meet, where silence is unheard of.

Hundreds of practices are stuffed into the chlorine-infested parkas of any swimmer, yet these athletes tirelessly return to the pool daily, sometimes even twice a day, to train through painstakingly difficult sets of demanding cardio, goggle-encrusted eyes eternally fixed on the time clocks. Urban legend has it that swimmers choke on more water than they breathe air. Chlorine is said to run through their hair follicles, which some shampoo providers have taken advantage of. Swimmer's ear is more common than having brown eyes. Some call this dedication insane, some call it disciplined, and others still shrug it off and say that there is no greater reward than having the pleasure to guiltlessly eat 4 cheeseburgers a sitting and proudly display a "Homestead Swimming" sticker their car windshield. As the season comes to a close, the Seniors reflected on nostalgic memories from their swimming careers, as some of them are ending with their high school graduation.

When asked for one word to describe this season, Megan Salzmann (12) replied, "Considering all the ups and downs we had, we finished the season strong, so I'd say it was 'memorable'."

"I would describe the season as fire," said Alex Maher (12), ""because we not only basically lit the pool on fire with all of our fast swimming, but we also rekindled the flame of our team by becoming more of a unit and working closer together, encouraging one another during practice and meets, etc."

Recently, many heads throughout the hallways sported unnaturally blonde hair, but this tradition is nothing new to the boys' swim team. Many traditions have been maintained for years, bonding all members of the swimming family.

"My favorite memory," said Sam Hagedorn (12), "is making 'Donald's runs after morning practice before school with the boys." The high activity of a swimmer's metabolism eliminates stress involved with eating unhealthy foods.

The girl's team has traditions of their own, but theirs seem to make the biggest statements at the pool. "Our biggest team ritual is not shaving our legs. We don't shave from the beginning of our season-mid-September-to our sectional meet in February. It used to freak me out as a freshman, and now it's completely normal," said Jordan Nussear (12).

On top of an extreme hygienic dedication to teammates, the girls have a close bond as a result of countless hours together. "We do a lot of team dinners and sometimes we will go out and have breakfast after our morning practices. One time we were at a team dinner...we walked outside and all the cars were saran wrapped and teepeed, which was funny," said Emily Thrasher (12).

Pranks, however, don't seem to play a dominant role in team comradery. The girl's and guy's teams seem closer than their kneeskins, tighter than their latex caps, and thicker than their leg hair.

The team was unfortunately removed from the NHC (conference) meet, however seniors who experienced the NHC in their earlier years don't seem to mind its absence too much.

"It was really just a meet with a trophy at the end," said Mark Hammes (12). "We did make a cool cheer though, part of which joked about us getting 'kicked out the NHC'".

Katie Ducker (12), agreed, elaborating that "not much changed without an actual conference meet this year because our coach worked with the Carroll and Northridge coaches to plan a meet in place of [it]...the only difference was that it was a tri-meet instead of competing for the conference title."

Moving forward without a conference may have even been a blessing in disguise to some swimmers. Cameron Frank (12) said that the absence of a conference "opened the door for some expanded opportunities to race teams from other parts of the state that we hadn't had much of a chance to race before."

Although the senior swimmers will soon rid their bodies of Summit's chlorinated waters permanently, many are hopeful that their positive impacts on the underclassmen will keep their legacies alive and thriving.

Chip Herendeen (12) took this long-lasting concept from past upperclassmen. " I feel that I most strongly contribute a sense of mentor-ship. As an eighth grader, the seniors on the team took an interest in me, and this kept me engaged and excited to swim. I try to do the same by reaching out to the younger kids on the team."

Cameron Frank continued with this concept, saying that he felt his "biggest contribution to the team is leadership and laying the groundwork for future seasons by setting a good example and high expectations for the rest of the team."

Emily Thrasher (12) also believed that she had an obligation to the girls' team to mentor the younger teammates. "I feel like I can contribute a lot of experience to the underclassmen. It's their first time going to meets like sectionals and state and it's totally different: it can be very nerve wracking, but I like to think that I can help everyone have fun and swim their best times."

As another season in the pool dries up, the seniors are bitter-sweet, yet relieved, for they will be able to shave their legs weekly, dye their hair whenever they'd like, and lose the traumatic effects of Swimmer's Ear.

STATS

-- Boys swim won the Hamilton Southeastern Invite for the first time ever this season.

-- Boys swim is going to state in every event this year

-- 2016 was the first year a freshman won first in state dive

-- Girls swim placed second at sectionals and seventh at state

-- Boys swim placed first in sectionals with 525.5 points

-- Boys dive took first, second, and third place at sectionals

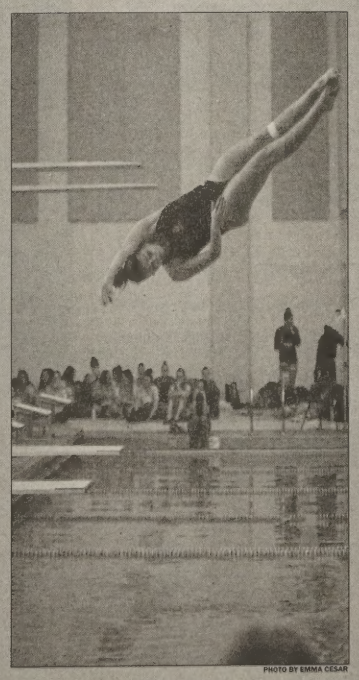


PHOTO BY EMMA CESAR

Kayla Luarde (10) completes her front twister

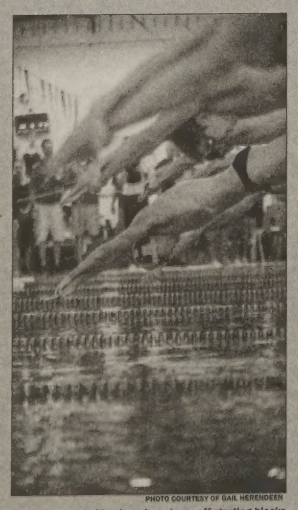


PHOTO COURTESY OF GAIL HERENDEEN

Homestead leads as boys jump off starting blocks

The benefits of staying active for any lifestyle

While the end of a sports season can seem like the biggest relief, it should not mean that the physical aspects should stop when the sport does. Eventually there comes a time when a player needs to prepare for the next time around, and while the motivation may not be strong to get up and exercise, it will pay off immensely once the season rolls around again.

While most sports do hold conditioning sessions before their regular season starts, they will not come easy. Pre-season conditioning is actually decently vigorous most of the time, in order to get players' bodies ready for the season to come. This is why it is rather difficult for many players to jump into conditioning after not having done much physical activity since the last season ended.

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

Not only is it difficult for many, but it can also be dangerous to some. Muscles tighten up over time of not being used passed their every day limit, and jumping right into vigorous conditioning can cause them to strain, cramp or tear. These types of injuries are detrimental to an athlete, but can be avoided easily in most situations.

Staying in shape during off-season does not always mean a three mile run every day, nor does it mean maintaining any routine of that level of physicality. While some have this capability, it is not the only beneficial way to keep moving.

Weight lifting is one way to keep a player's muscles warmed up and improve their overall physical strength. Simple fitness machines are beneficial ways of staying in shape as well, such as ellipticals or stationary bikes. Home workout videos are always available for a small cost, such as P90X or Insanity.

These types of workouts do not have to be done all that often either, but just enough to keep the player's metabolism up. This way, once the actual season or official conditioning starts, he or she will not have as much trouble keeping up with the first few days of the workout, because their body will already be semi-prepared for it.

Not only is keeping conditioned beneficial to the player, but their team and coaches as well. If a coach's players are already in good enough shape, they can move onto other things they may not have had time for, which would be different for every sport. Overall, already having the big things out of the way leaves more room to focus on the little things that helps everyone improve as a team. While coaches do not expect all of their players to be able to pick up right where they left off, they should not have to completely recondition themselves at the beginning of every season.

Outside of sports, staying in shape is beneficial to everyone. Regular physical activity can boost a person's energy, which improves them as a student as well, allowing them to be more alert in and out of school. It also improves their mood, because the physical activity stimulates different brain chemicals that leave people feeling happier and more relaxed. Exercise also improves sleeping patterns, which is again beneficial to students who are lacking sleep.

If exercising alone is not motivating enough, training with a partner is always beneficial. If two people are on the same team, this is also beneficial because they know what the need to work on as a team and individually, and can assist each other in these tasks.

It is of course difficult to find time to exercise in the busy schedule of a student athlete, but none of these things need to take place every day. A trip to the gym or your own home workout a few times a week in enough to keep a person's blood flowing and muscles loosened up.

Overall, exercise is beneficial for a person's body, mind and athletic career. There is always a benefit to staying active.

POSTSEASON RUN CUT SHORT

The student section gets rowdy at the girls basketball semi-state game at Carroll High School against Penn High School, hoping the girls pull for a win and continue to state for another year

PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

BY ADAM SWIATKOWSKI
Online Editor

26-3.

So close.

The girls basketball team made it to the top four in the state before being narrowly beat out by Penn, their season record ending at 26-3. The powerhouse team that Homestead has become in recent years was unable to reach the ultimate goal, falling out painfully at semi-state after an uncharacteristic game.

"I was crushed, honestly, with it being my last season," Savannah Buck (12) said. "We missed some shots that we normally make, we turned the ball over too much, and defensively we weren't able to contain the ball; I don't know if it was the nerves, but it seems like it made a perfect storm of things that could go wrong for us."

Unfortunately, it was not the right night for the Lady Spartans, as nothing seemed to go their way; shots bouncing just off the rim, bad bounces on passes and an overall uncertainty crept into the game, disrupting the team's usual tendency of precision. However, the team stayed resilient, fighting all the way to the end.

"We worked well together, but the main problem was turnovers; we didn't take care of the ball," Buck said. "We didn't panic, and stuck together through all the ups and downs of the game. I led the team the best I could and tried to keep their heads in it, and I know I did everything I could and left it all out there."

There were some positives to take away from the game, as the team did stay relatively close to Penn and gave them pressure from various fronts as they fought to regain the lead.

"Our post play was good and our guards matched up really well and did (their jobs)," Karissa McLaughlin (11) said. "It just didn't fall our way and it was unfortunate, especially since our shooting percentage wasn't even close to our average. There were several weaknesses during that game that weren't a part of our regular performance, and we didn't play to what we know are capable of."

Leading up to the game, the team studied their opponents extensively,understanding what they would have to face once they came out onto the court and determining how they would minimize Penn's threats. It was not an easy task, and there were several aspects of the game that perhaps evaded the Spartans, in face of nerves and pressure.

"Penn was a very good team and we didn't do our job effectively when marking their key shooters, sometimes we just left them open," McLaughlin said. "These were all just silly mistakes we could avoid, that we talked about in practice, but it feels like we weren't mentally ready and prepared to go after (the semi-state game). How we came out for the game is not what I expected, even though I felt like we had so much energy and emotion. It just didn't transfer out onto the court."

Despite the fall at semi-state, the girls team had a wildly impressive season, with many highlights coming across their extensive domination. The events and memories made hold a deep place in the hearts of the girls, especially seniors such as Buck, whose four year service to the team came to a conclusion.

"The beginning of the season was amazing since we stayed undefeated for so long, and we won the SAC tournament by over 40 points and then on top of that won the new conference," Buck said. "The biggest accomplishment was just to play in semi-state, it's really special to be in the top four (in Indiana) and be playing at such a high level, as well as handling the adversity we faced while going through the postseason. I'm also so proud of how all the girls on the team improved their game and how we came together across the season and accomplished so much."

With Buck and seniors Lindley Kistler, Nicole Weaver and Nkiru Ezeakudo all leaving, this year's junior class and sophomore classes will need to step up and take the reins to the girls basketball program. Other starters from the current year such as McLaughlin, Madisen Parker (11) and Jazmyne Geist (11) will take on bigger roles as they are tasked with a season that will bring just as high expectations for a strong trip through the postseason.

"I know that I will be trying to push everyone to be the best they possibly can be during the offseason," Geist said. "We have a lot of time until next year but I want to be the one to encourage all of my teammates and help them maintain focus on next year's challenges after this year's seniors graduate."

McLaughlin, too, understands the role she will take as a senior next year, knowing what will need to be done during the offseason and how she will motivate the team. The girls team plans to travel to the Best of Maryland tournament this summer in Washington DC to both bond as a team and to gain exposure to higher opponents that will lend itself to high-pressure games back at home.

"Next year being my senior year, I will need to take on a leadership role, like how Savannah (Buck) played a big leadership role and was very vocal, trying to hype up the team (during semi-state) when we were down," McLaughlin said. "I want to go out with a bang and make one more postseason run through being a leader by example both on and off the court for my teammates, because I really do care about them. (The junior girls) have all the experience we need by getting to state last year and semi-state this year, so we know what it feels like to be in difficult positions, and how to fight back. We have high motivation to work harder and go back because this is our last go at (the state championship)."

PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

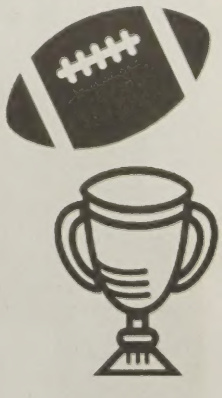
Savannah Buck (12) and Nicole Weaver (12) get each other hype to fight for their win against Penn

Opinions on Superbowl 50

"Nothing to exciting happened but I did enjoy most of the commercials and all the food I had to eat." - Kameran Etemadi

"To be honest, I didn't really care who won. All that I watched was the halftime show." - Abby Burns

"I think it was a good game to watch because you had the #1 defense going up against the #1 offense. Then you had another good defense and another great offense so this game was going to come down to the defenses." - Ross Kroterfield



Erin Hall (12), Bethany Eubank (12)

Jordan Scott (10), Brooke Butler (10)

JERSEY MONDAY

Will Milne (10), Gaby Meissner (12)

Matthew Jacobson (10)

SENIOR CITIZEN TUESDAY

RETRO WEDNESDAY

JUSTBECAUSEWEEK

FEB. 22-26

SQUAD FRIDAY

Kendal Paul (12), Madison Davis (12), Erin Hall (12), Derrik Emerick (12)

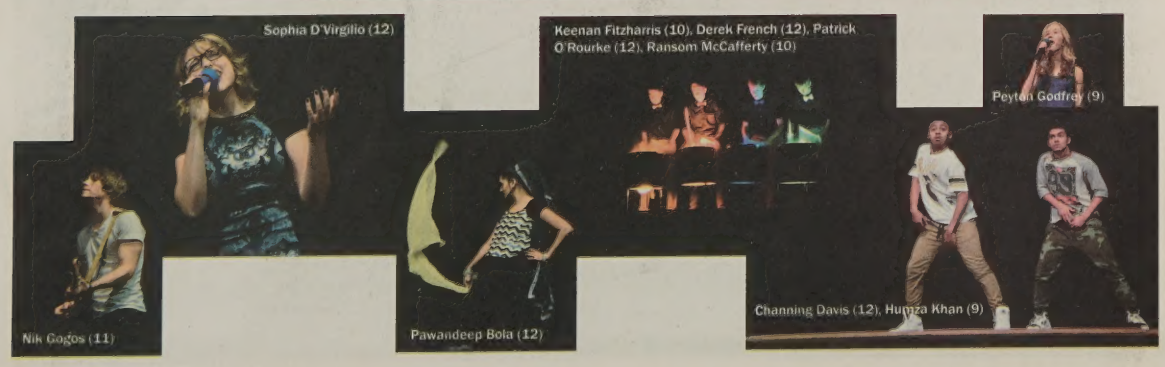
Kiera Reynolds (12), Bethany Eubank (12), Melissa Hinrichs (12), Bekah Zvers (12)

Claire Costello (11), Olivia Ormsby (11)

PHOTOS BY PAWANDEEP BOLA AND EMMA LEININGER

VARIETYSHOW

FEB. 25


Sophia D'Virgilio (12)
Keenan Fitzharris (10), Derek French (12), Patrick O'Rourke (12), Ransom McCafferty (10)
Peyton Godfrey (9)
Nik Gogos (11)
Pawandeep Bola (12)
Channing Davis (12), Humza Khan (9)

the SPARTANA

issue six
volume forty five
march 31, 2016
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

www.hhsspartana.com A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

INSIDENOW

NEWS
A How-To guide on registering to vote for upcoming elections. Baseball team welcomes new coach. Debunked. 2

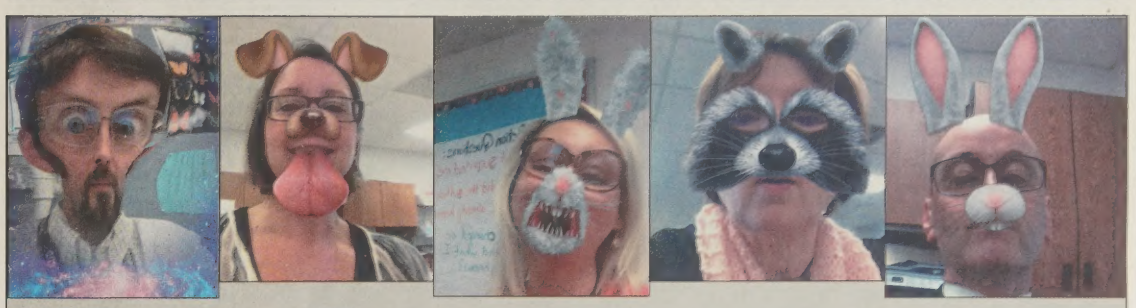
LIFE
English teacher named to IU cohort. Show choir visits Orlando. Dance team competes at state finals and brings home. 4

FEATURE
With Apr. 1 right around the corner, Spartan students and teachers share their most creative and entertaining jokes. 8

OPINION
Referendum up for renewal in vital vote for district success. Video lessons alone not enough to facilitate learning. 3

SPORTS
Winter sports wrap up as spring ones sail off. Athletic trainers celebrate Athletic Trainer Month. 7

ONLINE
visit www.hhsspartana.com.
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA



Teachers plug into World of social media

Social media creates opportunity for increased student involvement in class

BY MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor

Social media may seem like a sphere of student life which a large number of teachers are not involved in; however, platforms such as Twitter can allow teachers a way to give homework reminders or 140-character quizzes.

While Park Ginder, principal, does not notice a divide between teachers who do not use social media and students who do, he does think it creates "a connection point" for teachers and students who both use it. He views it as a teaching opportunity because there are "all kinds of things that can be done with Twitter educationally."

Teachers are encouraged to use social media to connect with educational resources and some teachers use the networks to incite more student involvement in their classes.

"(The administration talks) to our teachers about using Twitter for professional development--for creating their own professional learning community," Ginder said. "Also, they are tweeting information about their class or even fun stuff that's related to the class."

Some teachers, like Holly Wenning, English teacher, use social media to remind students of tasks they need to have completed for class.

"I have tweeted homework assignments or interesting articles or homework reminders or test reminders," Wenning said.

> "There's a lot of value in using social media to make ourselves smarter and to keep ourselves up to date."
>
> **PARK GINDER**
> *Principal*

Other teachers, like Nathan Arata, science teacher, fear involvement in social media and having students use it as part of their classwork may intrude on their personal lives.

"Students get paranoid," Arata said. "They don't understand if they follow me, that doesn't mean I'm following them."

Ginder views Twitter as simply one of a multitude of teaching approaches. While he believesincorporating social media into teaching can be beneficial, he thinks teachers with more traditional methods of teaching can achieve the same goal.

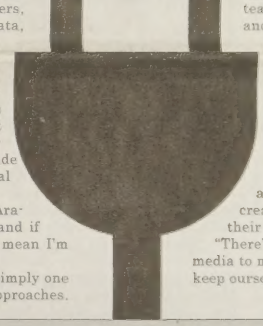
"It's a different way to engage students in making the content area fun," Ginder said. "It's also a great way to get information out."

Ginder ensures the addition of tweeted assignments would not act as a distraction because teachers know the proper time and place to use the technology.

"I think the adults (at school) are well aware of when and how to use it," Ginder said. "If there's any negative to it, I haven't experienced it yet."

In any circumstance, the introduction of social media into teaching acts as a beneficial addition and increases students' participation in their subject matters.

"There's a lot of value in using social media to make ourselves smarter and to keep ourselves up to date," Ginder said.



Meet the teachers:

	Instagram	"On Fleek"	Snapchat	"Salty"	Memes	Twitter	Vine
Nathan Arata	It's pictures.	Isn't that what you do when you get crumbs on your lap?	It's pictures that people think go away very quickly, but they don't.	Doesn't it just mean a little irritable or something?	It's like an internet theme, where you're internet famous, or viral.	You tweet about anything you want, but you got 140 characters. I know that. Short thoughts, although people kind of get around that because they send links or they send an image of a really long thing.	Isn't it like an animation of some kind, like maybe a three-second or six-second, short gif or something, and it loops itself?
Park Ginder	Life images with quirky comments.	That one I'm not quite so sure, because I know what fleek meant to my baseball players 20 years ago. I don't know.	Maybe inappropriate quirky comments.	Biting, awesome, cool	Just a visual story, or an idea that makes fun of something.	Quirky comments.	That can be a lot of fun. That's kind of similar to Instagram. Stories or videos with quirky comments.
Nancy Rodgers	You send little messages with the photo, and it disappears rather quickly, I understand. Thirty seconds or something like that.	En fliqué? I haven't the foggiest, except "fliqué" is slang for policemen (in French).	I might have them confused. (Instagram and Snapchat are) somewhat similar, and I know my students love them, and I use neither.	Now, if you're very old like my husband, it's a synonym for expensive. It's also a synonym for a bit rude or inappropriate.	Oh, we have fun with that one. They're those little pictures with sometimes thought-provoking sayings.	You send tweets, or you tweet, you could say.	Well, if it has a name like "Vine," you would think that it's something that grows out like a grapevine. You can spread a rumor on Vine.
Becky Vail	My kids put all kinds of pictures and stuff on there, so it would be nice to see that, but they've banned me from Instagram.	I think that means you're really good, you're looking fine today.	(To use Snapchat), you take stupid pictures of yourselves, and then you send it to your friends. (My kids) use Snapchat all the time. I don't know that I would use that in teaching at all, but to keep in contact with my adult children, who are very tech-savy.	If you're salty, that means you're a little bit snippy with things, or you're a little upset about something.	Oh! A meme is a picture that expresses something. It's usually an old person with a funny face and a caption after it.	Keeping in touch with my children would be a big thing (on Twitter) because they are always tweeting about different types of things, although they don't want me to know what they're tweeting about most of the time.	Vines are if you have a little video clip, and then you play it over and over and over again.
Holly Wenning	I have an Instagram account, but I don't post on it regularly.	I think it's a good thing.	That's where you send a picture, and it disappears.	I would guess that salty means that you're upset with someone.	Aren't those the little messages that have the E-Notes or something, like on Facebook?	I tweet occasionally.	It's like Twitter but with videos.

Erin Hall (12), Bethany Eubank (12)

Jordan Scott (10), Brooke Butler (10)

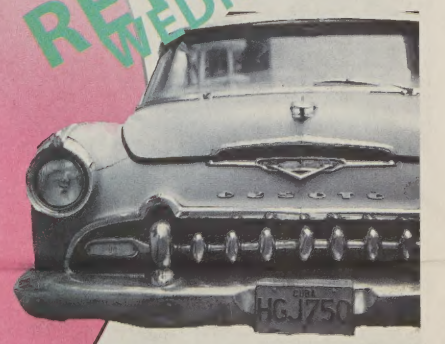
JERSEY MONDAY

Will Milne (10), Gaby Meissner (12)

Matthew Jacobson (10)

SENIOR CITIZEN TUESDAY

RETRO WEDNESDAY



JUSTBE CAUSEWEEK

FEB. 22-26

Claire Costello (11), Olivia Ormsby (11)

PHOTOS BY PAWANDEEP BOLA AND EMMA LEININGER

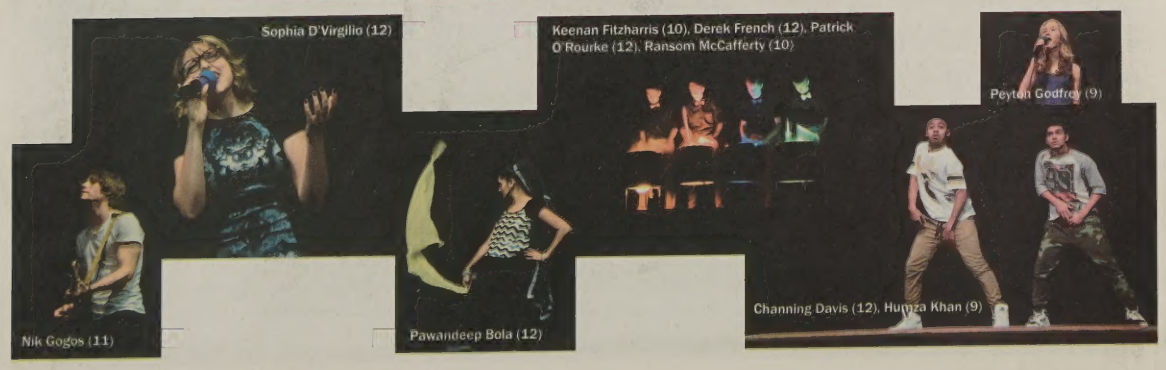
SQUAD FRIDAY

Kendal Paul (12), Madison Davis (12), Erin Hall (12), Derrik Emerick (12)

Kiera Reynolds (12), Bethany Eubank (12), Melissa Hinrichs (12), Bekah Zvers (12)

VARIETYSHOW

FEB. 25


Sophia D'Virgilio (12)
Keenan Fitzharris (10), Derek French (12), Patrick O'Rourke (12), Ransom McCafferty (10)
Peyton Godfrey (9)
Nik Gogos (11)
Pawandeep Bola (12)
Channing Davis (12), Humza Khan (9)

the SPARTANA

issue six
volume forty five
march 31, 2016
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

INSIDENOW

NEWS
A How-To guide on registering to vote for upcoming elections. Baseball team welcomes new coach. Debunked. 2

LIFE
English teacher named to IU cohort. Show choir visits Orlando. Dance team competes at state finals and brings home. 4

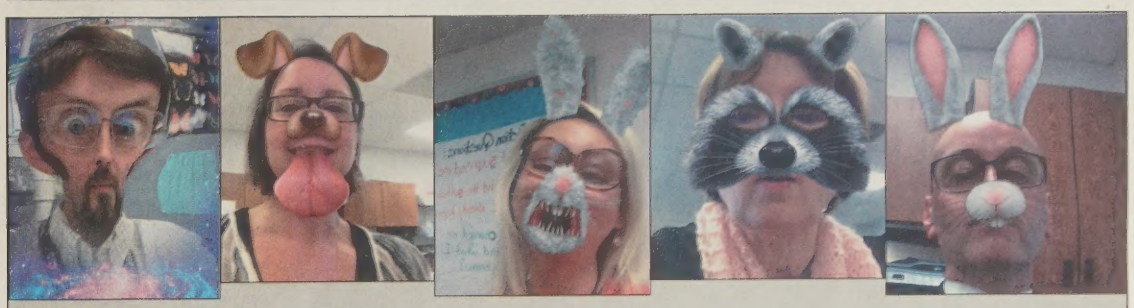
FEATURE
With Apr. 1 right around the corner, Spartan students and teachers share their most creative and entertaining jokes. 8

OPINION
Referendum up for renewal in vital vote for district success. Video lessons alone not enough to facilitate learning. 3

SPORTS
Winter sports wrap up as spring ones sail off. Athletic trainers celebrate Athletic Trainer Month. 7

ONLINE
visit www.hhsspartana.com.
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

www.hhsspartana.com A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969



Teachers plug into World of social media

Social media creates opportunity for increased student involvement in class

BY MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor

Social media may seem like a sphere of student life which a large number of teachers are not involved in; however, platforms such as Twitter can allow teachers a way to give homework reminders or 140-character quizzes.

While Park Ginder, principal, does not notice a divide between teachers who do not use social media and students who do, he does think it creates "a connection point" for teachers and students who both use it. He views it as a teaching opportunity because there are "all kinds of things that can be done with Twitter educationally."

Teachers are encouraged to use social media to connect with educational resources and some teachers use the networks to incite more student involvement in their classes.

"(The administration talks) to our teachers about using Twitter for professional development--for creating their own professional learning community," Ginder said. "Also, they are tweeting information about their class or even fun stuff that's related to the class."

Some teachers, like Holly Wenning, English teacher, use social media to remind students of tasks they need to have completed for class.

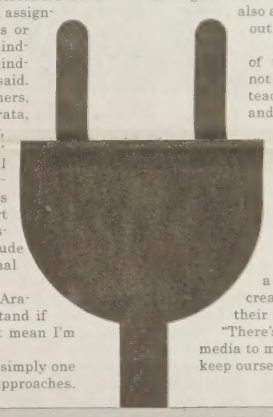
"I have tweeted homework assignments or interesting articles or homework reminders or test reminders," Wenning said.

> "There's a lot of value in using social media to make ourselves smarter and to keep ourselves up to date."
>
> **PARK GINDER**
> *Principal*

Other teachers, like Nathan Arata, science teacher, fear involvement in social media and having students use it as part of their classwork may intrude on their personal lives.

"Students get paranoid," Arata said. "They don't understand if they follow me, that doesn't mean I'm following them."

Ginder views Twitter as simply one of a multitude of teaching approaches.



While he believesincorporating social media into teaching can be beneficial, he thinks teachers with more traditional methods of teaching can achieve the same goal.

"It's a different way to engage students in making the content area fun," Ginder said. "It's also a great way to get information out."

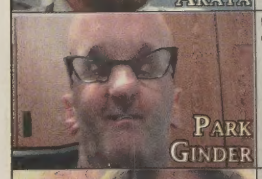
Ginder ensures the addition of tweeted assignments would not act as a distraction because teachers know the proper time and place to use the technology.

"I think the adults (at school) are well aware of when and how to use it," Ginder said. "If there's any negative to it, I haven't experienced it yet."

In any circumstance, the introduction of social media into teaching acts as a beneficial addition and increases students' participation in their subject matters.

"There's a lot of value in using social media to make ourselves smarter and to keep ourselves up to date," Ginder said.

Meet the teachers:

	Instagram	"On Fleek"	Snapchat	"Salty"	Memes	Twitter	Vine
Nathan Arata	It's pictures.	Isn't that what you do when you get crumbs on your lap?	It's pictures that people think go away very quickly, but they don't.	Doesn't it just mean a little irritable or something?	It's like an internet theme, where you're internet famous, or viral.	You tweet about anything you want, but you got 140 characters. I know that. Short thoughts, although people kind of get around that because they send links or they send an image of a really long thing.	Isn't it like an animation of some kind, like maybe a three-second or six-second, short gif or something, and it loops itself?
 Park Ginder	Life images with quirky comments.	That one I'm not quite so sure, because I know what fleek meant to my baseball players 20 years ago. I don't know.	Maybe inappropriate quirky comments.	Biting, awesome, cool	Just a visual story, or an idea that makes fun of something.	Quirky comments.	That can be a lot of fun. That's kind of similar to instagram. Stories or videos with quirky comments.
Nancy Rodgers	You send little messages with the photo, and it disappears rather quickly, I understand. Thirty seconds or something like that.	En fliqué? I haven't the foggiest, except "fliqué" is slang for policemen (in French).	I might have them confused. (Instagram and Snapchat are) somewhat similar, and I know my students love them, and I use neither.	Now, if you're very old like my husband, it's a synonym for expensive. It's also a synonym for a bit rude or inappropriate.	Oh, we have fun with that one. They're those little pictures with sometimes thought-provoking sayings.	You send tweets, or you tweet, you could say.	Well, if it has a name like "Vine," you would think that it's something that grows out like a grapevine. You can spread a rumor on Vine.
Becky Vail	My kids put all kinds of pictures and stuff on there, so it would be nice to see that, but they've banned me from Instagram.	I think that means you're really good, you're looking fine today.	(To use Snapchat), you take stupid pictures of yourselves, and then you send it to your friends. (My kids) use Snapchat all the time. I don't know that I would use that in teaching at all, but to keep in contact with my adult children, who are very tech-savy.	If you're salty, that means you're a little bit snippy with things, or you're a little upset about something.	Oh! A meme is a picture that expresses something. It's usually an old person with a funny face and a caption after it.	Keeping in touch with my children would be a big thing (on Twitter) because they are always tweeting about different types of things, although they don't want me to know what they're tweeting about most of the time.	Vines are if you have a little video clip, and then you play it over and over and over again.
Holly Wenning	I have an Instagram account, but I don't post on it regularly.	I think it's a good thing.	That's where you send a picture, and it disappears.	I would guess that salty means that you're upset with someone.	Aren't those the little messages that have the E-Notes or something, like on Facebook?	I tweet occasionally.	It's like Twitter but with videos.

designed by kylie poling

NEWS

Nick Byall assumes role of head baseball coach after years of assisting

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

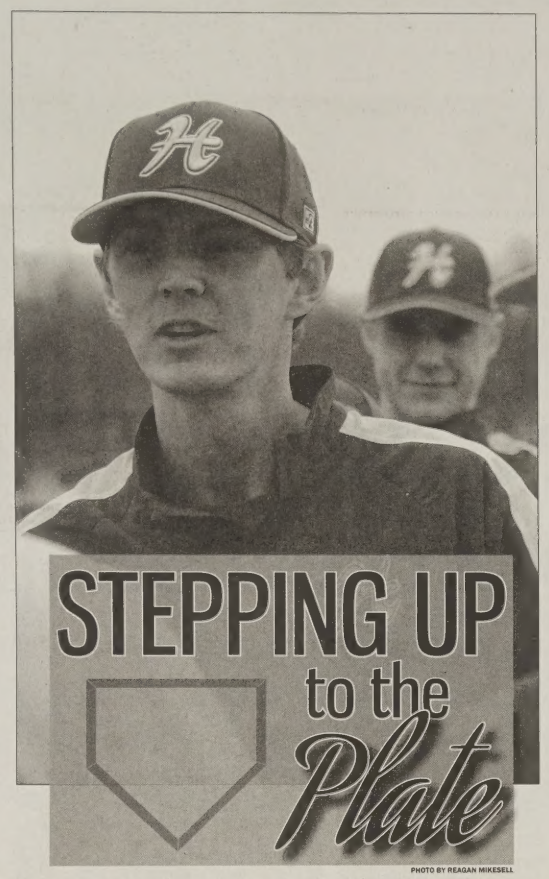


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

The sand has been laid, the shoe racks at Dick's Sporting Goods are now barren and a cluster of players grades 9 through 12 step out onto the field, knocking the cobwebs off their mitts and the dust off their hats.

The short stop stops short, the catcher is caught off guard, as Nick Byall, head coach, steps out with the authority only a head coach would possess.

Though there is always speculation with new coaches, Byall has been involved with Homestead's baseball team as an assistant coach for the past ten years. Mix him in with a team chalked full of veteran players and the result is a team more optimistic pre-season than ever before.

"It has been a pretty smooth transition so far," Byall said. "It's kind of different moving into that role, but as far as the way things normally run in the beginning of the season, not much has really changed for the guys."

The players have agreed that the transition has gone almost unnoticed.

"He's a good coach," Drew Lunsford (12), shortstop for the varsity team, said. "He relates to all of us, and he has been on the coaching staff with all of us since we all started the program. We're all comfortable with him and vice versa, but at the same time he's good with constructive criticism; he's very supportive and he encourages a lot of competition."

Because of Byall's involvement with the team for the last decade, he has made a great impact on several of the returning players that keep their optimism high.

"The players see (Byall) as more than just a coach," Brady Sheehan (12), catcher, said. "He's someone every guy should look up to. He's not just a coach, he's a role model for each and every player and has really bettered me as a player and even more as a person."

As far as Byall's impact on the team as the new head coach, Lunsford believes that the difference is mild and positive.

"Really nothing much has changed, he's just our new head coach; most of the policies have stayed the same and most of the strategies have stayed the same, it's just a new person running the show."

Though multiple players are already aiming high with post-season goals, Byall explains that every game is key to the team's success.

"We kind of set basic goals on how we want to perform each day," Byall said. "We always talk about making the routine plays, preparing ourselves for them, because that's the key to success at this level in the sport.The focus is on getting better throughout the year and getting ourselves better prepared and hopefully firing all cylinders when playoff time comes; we're just trying to make as deep a run as we can when the time comes."

Returning players are looking for redemption in this upcoming season, and they're setting goals and sights high for regular as well as post-season games.

"We want to try to make it back to semistate this year and perform better than we did last year which will give us a chance to move onto the state championship," Lunsford said.

The team notes that championships take work though.

"There's going to be a lot of things we need to do prior to reaching our goal," Lunsford said. "We have a relatively experienced team, but with some of the new guys coming in we need to work with them to fill a couple of key positions and continue to grow every day as players."

Senior leadership plays a key role to the team's success for the 2016 season, with only five total players graduating with last year's class, and they're ready to take them on.

"I do feel a responsibility to lead this team because of all my experience compared to a lot of the other guys," Sheehan said. "My experience will make it easier for me to understand situations and help the rest of the team through it. I hope to be the guy everyone can look to in times of struggle and the first to congratulate someone when they do something right."

10 years
as an assistant coach

As a catcher for the team, Sheehan plays an important role conducting the infield, the game demanding his full attention. However, every position on the diamond is key to a team's success.

"I play shortstop, and along with the catcher, we are two of the primary leadership positions on the field," Lunsford said. "And then batting at the top of the order is a big leadership position, you have to have a lot of confidence, you have to test out the new pitcher, and once you get back in the dugout it's your job to advise the other players on what kinds of pitches he's throwing, what the umpire's like, and what the best strategy will be going up against them. So I feel like most of my spots are leadership positions and I'm ready to take them on as the season starts."

> "(Byall is) good with constructive critcism; he's very supportive and he encourages a lot of competition."
>
> **DREW LUNSFORD (12)**
> *Shortstop*

As the season starts up, eyes are looking towards a promising season filled to the brim with hard work, success and

17-year-olds able to vote May 3

Voters will be able to cast ballots for presidential primary election and referendum

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-in-Chief

The voting age for general elections is 18; however, 17 year olds who will be 18 before the general election are eligible to vote in a primary election in the state of Indiana.

The current presidential race has proven to be one of the most disputed in election history and that can be daunting for first-time voters. This is especially true for students, many of whom have only experienced politics in government class.

Registering to vote is the first step in the process, and Indiana residents are eligible to register online at indianavoters.in.gov. Doing so requires only a driver's license or state ID number and verification of voting eligibility. After that, once the registration is approved the Indiana Election Division will mail a confirmation and the designated polling place.

Apr. 4
deadline to register

In order to vote in the primary election, voters must be registered by Apr. 4.

Primary polls open on May 3 at 6 a.m. and close at 6 p.m., meaning students can go to vote either before school begins or after the school day is over. Along with the primary elections, voters will decide the renewal of the district's $3.5 million referendum.

While the primary takes place during the 2015-2016 school year, for graduating seniors heading to college, the general election will take place while away at school. Therefore, in order to vote in the general election, it may become necessary to cast an absentee ballot. There are two forms of absentee voting: absentee-in-person and absentee-by-mail.

Absentee-in-person voting allows a voter who expects to be absent from his or her county on the day of the election to vote up to 28 days before the actual polling date at the county election board's office.

777
Homestead students eligible to vote

Absentee-by-mail voters submit their ballots via mail. All votes sent to the county election board must be received by April 25 in order to be counted.
Both forms of absentee voting are registered through the Indiana Voters homepage or in person at the election board's office.

Additionally, students have the option to work at the polls on election day. For students 18 or older and registered to vote, there is the opportunity to work as a poll worker, while students who are 16 or 17 are able to be part of Election Day LIVE.

Applications to work the polls are available through the Allen County Election Board, directly from the Republican party or the Democratic party as well from government teachers, including Shawn Harkness. Students who complete the election board's training and then work the polls on election day will be excused, pending approval from Park Ginder, principal.

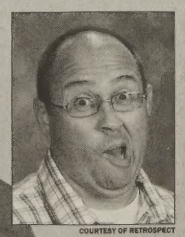
Election day is May 3 and the deadline to register for that election is April 4.

MYTH: Math teacher built own casket, uses it as a pantry.

STATUS: True!

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Surprise arose this month as Junior Stailey, math teacher, informed his students that he has already had his casket built and currently uses it as a pantry. Stailey, after teaching a class at his church, developed the opinion that the funeral business was exploiting people for money when they are most vulnerable.



COURTESY OF RETROSPECT

"A casket is really just a large box that stores a body in the ground," Stailey said. "Why should I spend thousands of dollars for a box with a one-time use when I could spend a few hundred and use the box for 30 years while I'm alive?"

Stailey drew up blueprints and worked with his neighbor, a carpenter, to build a cabinet for Stailey's dimensions. It was also fitted with slots for shelving and foldable handles, allowing Stailey to use the casket as a pantry for the rest of his life.

Stailey dismisses the thought of a casket pantry as "morbid," because he feels comfortable with the thought of death. His only grievance with the box is that all of his students refer to it as a "coffin," which does not have handles or curves like a casket does, and only vampires use coffins, according to Stailey. When asked if he is a vampire, Stailey refused to comment.

designed by michal spanjer

OPINION

Social media depicts life in unrealistic light

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

The ways we use 'social media' do not accurately pertain to either of those individual words. Social media is not "social" anymore because we tend to socialize with others by means of a calculated, and false version of ourselves. I encourage students to review their Instagrams. Once we can actually connect with ourselves, our connections with others strengthens.

A new wave of YouTube videos of young adults and teens exposing their Instagram pictures which were staged or posted so the followers would form a certain perception of the user inspired me to write this. I recommend Youtuber Izzy Davis' "Exposing My Fake Instagram Pictures" video.

Now it is my turn. @katie_maher_ is about to be exposed. Grab your phone and find my page, and prepare for a load of second-hand embarrassment.

My biggest offenses by far are my cringe-worthy attempts to be funny. I spent what must have been an accumulation of hours trying to create the perfect caption on posts.These stretches went too far. Even a Father John Misty concert, which was an amazing and illuminating experience for me, I tried to be funny in my captions of my posts. The attempt to appear witty in this specific example really devalued how much the show meant to me, and made me look like a jerk.

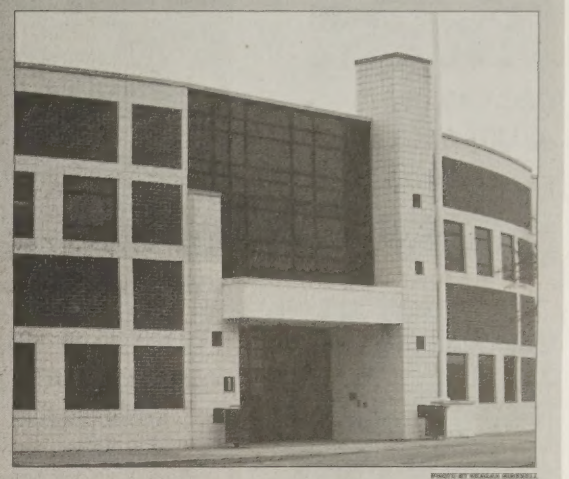
The next Katie Crime is not as clear to the viewer's eye, but definitely cringe-worthy. Several of my posts, around sophomore year (116 weeks ago in Instagram time), were subtly edgy, and dabbled in dry humor. So much, in fact, my reposts of failed anti-drug books and the fact I wore an actual New York City jail inmate's uniform led to my peers actually believing I was involved in drugs. Though people believing I was involved in illegal substances was unintentional, I was actually intentionally trying to get the attention of a boy I had a crush on. I am SO embarrassed writing about this. My crush was not even into drugs either; but if he wore a jean jacket, he must be edgy and my animal figurine collection was not punk enough.

Posts of my friends, animals and artwork never had secret intentions behind the posts. A blockage to revealing my true self online, however, is what I did not post. I am naturally reclusive in my interests, but I did not post material I wanted to on several occasions because I did not want to be "weird". For some reason thought sharing my nerdier side would not make me appear beautiful. I love Animal Crossing and Sailor Moon. I am interested in all types of music, but actually calculated posting a picture with Dr. Dog material would not make me look as weird as posting Soft Cell. (Also, the boy I mentioned earlier liked Dr. Dog too. Bonus!)

My advice to everyone is to reflect on the version of themselves they are sharing online. Do not be afraid to share your true interests, and please do not alter your social media to project what you believe a boy might like. Even consider starting social media over! In a way, the official and fully authentic Katie Maher just joined Instagram, and it feels great.

VOTE YES! Referenendum essential for district's future success

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-in-Chief



The referendum funds teacher employment throughout the entire district for the future.

Out of 363 school districts in the state, Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) is projected to be ranked at 358, in the bottom two-percent in terms of state funding amounts for the entire year. To combat this, the district has proposed to renew the referendum.

When seniors first heard of the so-called "referendum," they were in fifth grade. Some Girl Scout troops even held signs encouraging passersby to vote yes. Even then, most know neither what the referendum itself was, nor how it impacted their education.

Simply, the referendum is a tax to property owners within the district, including parts of Aboite and Lafayette Townships, which gives the district $3.5 million to supplement meager state funding. The tax applies to the net assessed value of property after deductions, which may be incurred by senior citizens, homeowners and mortgage holders.

Deductions would lower the assessed values of property for these groups of taxpayers. The current proposed referendum would continue the established levy of .1300, or about 13 cents for every $100 of net assessed property.

A referendum has been in place within the district since 1985. With the 2017 renewal, the funds will be allocated to the General Fund, supporting approximately 52 existing positions within the district.

"Historically, state funding for (SACS) district has been one of the lowest in the state," according to the "Our Referendum Renewal" document available at sacs.k12.in.us.

Every year the Indiana Department of Education gives all public schools a fixed amount of funding based upon the student population. More money is given to schools based upon a district's ratio of low-income students who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

If the referendum were to pass, SACS would jump ranking in terms of funding to 275 out of 363, a 23-percent jump.

"If we didn't have the referendum we would need to cut about 50 staff members and that would be significant across the district," Dr. Phil Downs, superintendent, said. "We would lose some programming at the high school."

Without the referendum funds, the second semester of the 2016-2017 school year will be drastically different. Class sizes will increase as at least 14 full-time teaching positions will no longer be available at the high school level specifically, and certain elective classes would not be available either. Additionally, the district will lose funding to support a school resource officer whose office is housed at the high school.

Should the referendum not receive a majority vote, the district will have the opportunity to re-vote on an altered proposal the following year.

Voting for the 2017 referendum will take place during the May 3 ballot. Registered voters over the age of 18 are eligible to vote, but some younger students may be eligible to decide on the referendum, too.

"17 year olds who turn 18 before the November election are allowed to vote," Downs elaborated. "You can vote in the primary election in May. I was one of those 17 year old kids who got to do that. If you don't want to participate in either party's primary, you can show up and just vote on the referendum."

Additional information is available online at sacs.k12.in.us, the district homepage, as well as Official Southwest Allen County Schools' YouTube channel and @YESforSACS on Twitter.

Video lessons pose a threat to understanding

Flipped classroom detracts from student involvement and comprehension in a physical class setting

BY MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor

With teachers incorporating more and more technology into their teaching, they pose the question: how much is too much? Technology benefits education by acting as support to lessons taught in class, but when it begins to stand in place of classroom teaching, it becomes a problem.

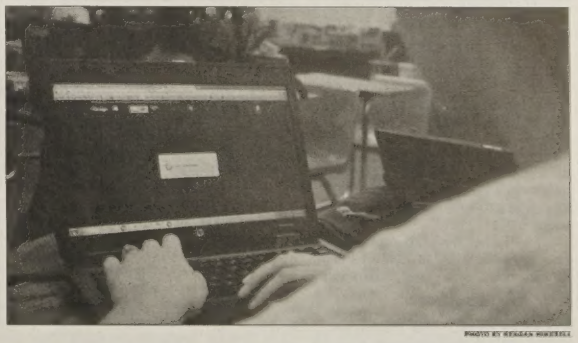
While a video explaining a math lesson may work well on an eLearning day, students' understanding begins to falter when the videos continue as a long term method of education instead of teaching in class.

The flipped classroom approach involves watching video lessons at home and doing assignments during class. While the system may work well to an extent in some environments, it can stand in the way of students' involvement in class because they are unable to ask questions as they are being taught.

Requiring students to watch posted videos explaining a lesson does not make up for lack of instruction during class. The purpose of teaching in class is to be able to stop and explain specific parts of a lesson if students do not understand. Students require face-to-face interaction in order to fully grasp the material.When paired with not clarifying what assignments need to be completed at home and insufficient review for quarterly exams, this method of teaching holds students back from success.

The role of a teacher changes so that the teacher's only role during class is to ensure that students are continuing to do their work. The teacher is an integral aspect to education because they explain the lessons and present examples and teach more than students can learn in a fifteen minute YouTube video. Their role is to allow students to ask questions and guide them to develop the skills they need to succeed, but in the flipped classroom setting, they act more as a monitor and do not give students the guidance they require to succeed.

While some may vouch for an adaptation to create a more efficient modern education system, the pattern of taking notes during class and doing homework at home has worked in schools for centuries for a reason. Students learn better from having their lesson taught directly to them and then practicing the work by themselves. The reversal of the traditional pattern detracts from student comprehension because it does not allow them to absorb the material in a classroom setting.



Video lessons lack effectiveness when they are consistently used as long term methodology.

2015-2016 Staff — Editor-in-Chief: Kylie Poling

Executive Editor: Tessa Virgilio
Copy Editor: Ethan Zweig
Photo Editor: Reagan Mikesell
Online Editor: Adam Swiatkowski
News Editor: Michal Spanjer
Opinion Editor: Katie Maher
Life Editor: Awbrei Vachon
Sports Editor: Kaylee Yanovich
Social Media Manager: Emma Leininger
Designer: Melana Rossi
Adviser: Terri Nowak
Photographers: Pawandeep Bola, Yana Weir
Writers: Arika Akin, Alexis Jordan, Matthew Killham, Mary Landrigan, Emma Pearl

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members supports the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public Input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

Nick Byall assumes role of head baseball coach after years of assisting

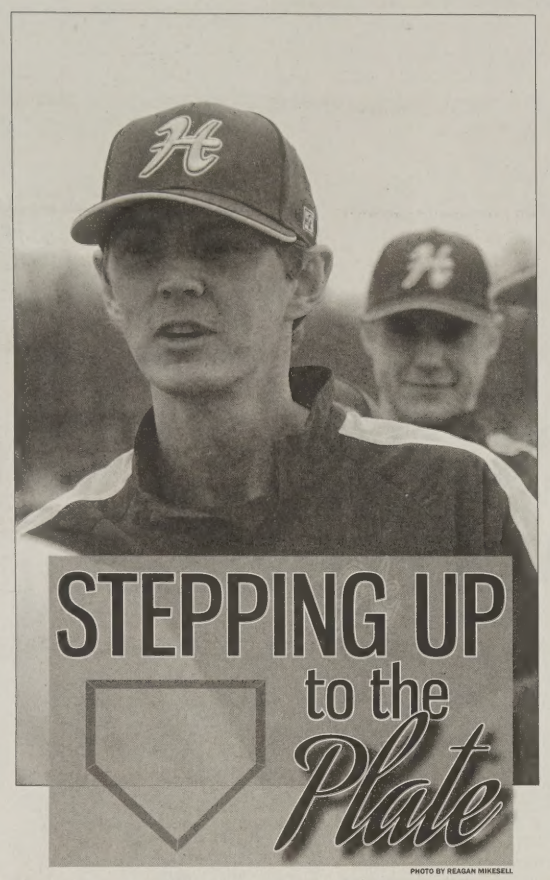


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

The sand has been laid, the shoe racks at Dick's Sporting Goods are now barren and a cluster of players grades 9 through 12 step out onto the field, knocking the cobwebs off their mitts and the dust off their hats.

The short stop stops short, the catcher is caught off guard, as Nick Byall, head coach, steps out with the authority only a head coach would possess.

Though there is always speculation with new coaches, Byall has been involved with Homestead's baseball team as an assistant coach for the past ten years. Mix him in with a team chalked full of veteran players and the result is a team more optimistic pre-season than ever before.

"It has been a pretty smooth transition so far," Byall said. "It's kind of different moving into that role, but as far as the way things normally run in the beginning of the season, not much has really changed for the guys."

The players have agreed that the transition has gone almost unnoticed.

"He's a good coach," Drew Lunsford (12), shortstop for the varsity team, said. "He relates to all of us, and he has been on the coaching staff with all of us since we all started the program. We're all comfortable with him and vice versa, but at the same time he's good with constructive criticism; he's very supportive and he encourages a lot of competition."

Because of Byall's involvement with the team for the last decade, he has made a great impact on several of the returning players that keep their optimism high.

"The players see (Byall) as more than just a coach," Brady Sheehan (12), catcher, said. "He's someone every guy should look up to. He's not just a coach, he's a role model for each and every player and has really bettered me as a player and even more as a person."

As far as Byall's impact on the team as the new head coach, Lunsford believes that the difference is mild and positive.

"Really nothing much has changed, he's just our new head coach; most of the policies have stayed the same and most of the strategies have stayed the same, it's just a new person running the show."

Though multiple players are already aiming high with post-season goals, Byall explains that every game is key to the team's success.

"We kind of set basic goals on how we want to perform each day," Byall said. "We always talk about making the routine plays, preparing ourselves for them, because that's the key to success at this level in the sport.The focus is on getting better throughout the year and getting ourselves better prepared and hopefully firing all cylinders when playoff time comes; we're just trying to make as deep a run as we can when the time comes."

Returning players are looking for redemption in this upcoming season, and they're setting goals and sights high for regular as well as post-season games.

"We want to try to make it back to semistate this year and perform better than we did last year which will give us a chance to move onto the state championship," Lunsford said.

The team notes that championships take work though.

"There's going to be a lot of things we need to do prior to reaching our goal," Lunsford said. "We have a relatively experienced team, but with some of the new guys coming in we need to work with them to fill a couple of key positions and continue to grow every day as players."

Senior leadership plays a key role to the team's success for the 2016 season, with only five total players graduating with last year's class, and they're ready to take them on.

"I do feel a responsibility to lead this team because of all my experience compared to a lot of the other guys," Sheehan said. "My experience will make it easier for me to understand situations and help the rest of the team through it. I hope to be the guy everyone can look to in times of struggle and the first to congratulate someone when they do something right."

10 years
as an assistant coach

As a catcher for the team, Sheehan plays an important role conducting the infield, the game demanding his full attention. However, every position on the diamond is key to a team's success.

"I play shortstop, and along with the catcher, we are two of the primary leadership positions on the field," Lunsford said. "And then batting at the top of the order is a big leadership position, you have to have a lot of confidence, you have to test out the new pitcher, and once you get back in the dugout it's your job to advise the other players on what kinds of pitches he's throwing, what the umpire's like, and what the best strategy will be going up against them. So I feel like most of my spots are leadership positions and I'm ready to take them on as the season starts."

> "(Byall is) good with constructive critcism; he's very supportive and he encourages a lot of competition."
>
> **DREW LUNSFORD (12)**
> *Shortstop*

As the season starts up, eyes are looking towards a promising season filled to the brim with hard work, success and

17-year-olds able to vote May 3

Voters will be able to cast ballots for presidential primary election and referendum

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-in-Chief

The voting age for general elections is 18; however, 17 year olds who will be 18 before the general election are eligible to vote in a primary election in the state of Indiana.

The current presidential race has proven to be one of the most disputed in election history and that can be daunting for first-time voters. This is especially true for students, many of whom have only experienced politics in government class.

Registering to vote is the first step in the process, and Indiana residents are eligible to register online at indianavoters.in.gov. Doing so requires only a driver's license or state ID number and verification of voting eligibility. After that, once the registration is approved the Indiana Election Division will mail a confirmation and the designated polling place.

Apr. 4
deadline to register

In order to vote in the primary election, voters must be registered by Apr. 4.

Primary polls open on May 3 at 6 a.m. and close at 6 p.m., meaning students can go to vote either before school begins or after the school day is over. Along with the primary elections, voters will decide the renewal of the district's $3.5 million referendum.

While the primary takes place during the 2015-2016 school year, for graduating seniors heading to college, the general election will take place while away at school. Therefore, in order to vote in the general election, it may become necessary to cast an absentee ballot. There are two forms of absentee voting: absentee-in-person and absentee-by-mail.

Absentee-in-person voting allows a voter who expects to be absent from his or her county on the day of the election to vote up to 28 days before the actual polling date at the county election board's office.

777
Homestead students eligible to vote

Absentee-by-mail voters submit their ballots via mail. All votes sent to the county election board must be received by April 25 in order to be counted.
Both forms of absentee voting are registered through the Indiana Voters homepage or in person at the election board's office.

Additionally, students have the option to work at the polls on election day. For students 18 or older and registered to vote, there is the opportunity to work as a poll worker, while students who are 16 or 17 are able to be part of Election Day LIVE.

Applications to work the polls are available through the Allen County Election Board, directly from the Republican party or the Democratic party as well from government teachers, including Shawn Harkness. Students who complete the election board's training and then work the polls on election day will be excused, pending approval from Park Ginder, principal.

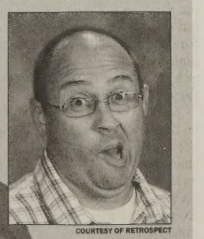
Election day is May 3 and the deadline to register for that election is April 4.

MYTH: Math teacher built own casket, uses it as a pantry.

STATUS: True!

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Surprise arose this month as Junior Stailey, math teacher, informed his students that he has already had his casket built and currently uses it as a pantry. Stailey, after teaching a class at his church, developed the opinion that the funeral business was exploiting people for money when they are most vulnerable.



COURTESY OF RETROSPECT

"A casket is really just a large box that stores a body in the ground," Stailey said. "Why should I spend thousands of dollars for a box with a one-time use when I could spend a few hundred and use the box for 30 years while I'm alive?"

Stailey drew up blueprints and worked with his neighbor, a carpenter, to build a cabinet for Stailey's dimensions. It was also fitted with slots for shelving and foldable handles, allowing Stailey to use the casket as a pantry for the rest of his life.

Stailey dismisses the thought of a casket pantry as "morbid," because he feels comfortable with the thought of death. His only grievance with the box is that all of his students refer to it as a "coffin," which does not have handles or curves like a casket does, and only vampires use coffins, according to Stailey. When asked if he is a vampire, Stailey refused to comment.

Social media depicts life in unrealistic light

BY KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor

The ways we use 'social media' do not accurately pertain to either of those individual words. Social media is not "social" anymore because we tend to socialize with others by means of a calculated, and false version of ourselves. I encourage students to review their Instagrams. Once we can actually connect with ourselves, our connections with others strengthens.

A new wave of YouTube videos of young adults and teens exposing their Instagram pictures which were staged or posted so the followers would form a certain perception of the user inspired me to write this. I recommend Youtuber Izzy Davis' "Exposing My Fake Instagram Pictures" video.
Now it is my turn. @katie_maher_ is about to be exposed. Grab your phone and find my page, and prepare for a load of second-hand embarrassment.
My biggest offenses by far are my cringe-worthy attempts to be funny. I spent what must have been an accumulation of hours trying to create the perfect caption on posts.These stretches went too far. Even a Father John Misty concert, which was an amazing and illuminating experience for me, I tried to be funny in my captions of my posts. The attempt to appear witty in this specific example really devalued how much the show meant to me, and made me look like a jerk.

The next Katie Crime is not as clear to the viewer's eye, but definitely cringe-worthy. Several of my posts, around sophomore year (116 weeks ago in Instagram time), were subtly edgy, and dabbled in dry humor. So much, in fact, my reposts of failed anti-drug books and the fact I wore an actual New York City jail inmate's uniform led to my peers actually believing I was involved in drugs. Though people believing I was involved in illegal substances was unintentional, I was actually intentionally trying to get the attention of a boy I had a crush on. I am SO embarrassed writing about this. My crush was not even into drugs either; but if he wore a jean jacket, he must be edgy and my animal figurine collection was not punk enough.

Posts of my friends, animals and artwork never had secret intentions behind the posts. A blockage to revealing my true self online, however, is what I did not post. I am naturally reclusive in my interests, but I did not post material I wanted to on several occasions because I did not want to be "weird". For some reason thought sharing my nerdier side would not make me appear beautiful. I love Animal Crossing and Sailor Moon. I am interested in all types of music, but actually calculated posting a picture with Dr. Dog material would not make me look as weird as posting Soft Cell. (Also, the boy I mentioned earlier liked Dr. Dog too. Bonus!)

My advice to everyone is to reflect on the version of themselves they are sharing online. Do not be afraid to share your true interests, and please do not alter your social media to project what you believe a boy might like. Even consider starting social media over! In a way, the official and fully authentic Katie Maher just joined Instagram, and it feels great.

VOTE YES! Referenendum essential for district's future success

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-in-Chief

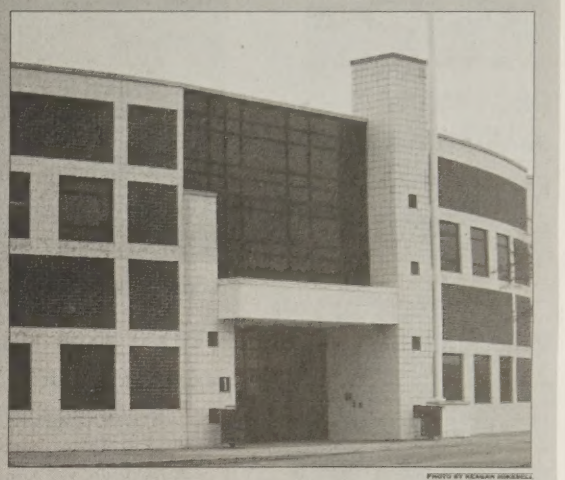


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

The referendum funds teacher employment throughout the entire district for the future.

Out of 363 school districts in the state, Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) is projected to be ranked at 358, in the bottom two-percent in terms of state funding amounts for the entire year. To combat this, the district has proposed to renew the referendum.

When seniors first heard of the so-called "referendum," they were in fifth grade. Some Girl Scout troops even held signs encouraging passersby to vote yes. Even then, most know neither what the referendum itself was, nor how it impacted their education.

Simply, the referendum is a tax to property owners within the district, including parts of Aboite and Lafayette Townships, which gives the district $3.5 million to supplement meager state funding. The tax applies to the net assessed value of property after deductions, which may be incurred by senior citizens, homeowners and mortgage holders.

Deductions would lower the assessed values of property for these groups of taxpayers. The current proposed referendum would continue the established levy of .1300, or about 13 cents for every $100 of net assessed property.

A referendum has been in place within the district since 1985. With the 2017 renewal, the funds will be allocated to the General Fund, supporting approximately 52 existing positions within the district.

"Historically, state funding for (SACS) district has been one of the lowest in the state," according to the "Our Referendum Renewal" document available at sacs.k12.in.us.

Every year the Indiana Department of Education gives all public schools a fixed amount of funding based upon the student population. More money is given to schools based upon a district's ratio of low-income students who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

If the referendum were to pass, SACS would jump ranking in terms of funding to 275 out of 363, a 23-percent jump.

"If we didn't have the referendum we would need to cut about 50 staff members and that would be significant across the district," Dr. Phil Downs, superintendent, said. "We would lose some programming at the high school."

Without the referendum funds, the second semester of the 2016-2017 school year will be drastically different. Class sizes will increase as at least 14 full-time teaching positions will no longer be available at the high school level specifically, and certain elective classes would not be available either. Additionally, the district will lose funding to support a school resource officer whose office is housed at the high school.

Should the referendum not receive a majority vote, the district will have the opportunity to re-vote on an altered proposal the following year.

Voting for the 2017 referendum will take place during the May 3 ballot. Registered voters over the age of 18 are eligible to vote, but some younger students may be eligible to decide on the referendum, too.

"17 year olds who turn 18 before the November election are allowed to vote," Downs elaborated. "You can vote in the primary election in May. I was one of those 17 year old kids who got to do that. If you don't want to participate in either party's primary, you can show up and just vote on the referendum."

Additional information is available online at sacs.k12.in.us, the district homepage, as well as Official Southwest Allen County Schools' YouTube channel and @YESforSACS on Twitter.

Video lessons pose a threat to understanding

Flipped classroom detracts from student involvement and comprehension in a physical class setting

BY MICHAL SPANJER
News Editor

With teachers incorporating more and more technology into their teaching, they pose the question: how much is too much? Technology benefits education by acting as support to lessons taught in class, but when it begins to stand in place of classroom teaching, it becomes a problem.

While a video explaining a math lesson may work well on an eLearning day, students' understanding begins to falter when the videos continue as a long term method of education instead of teaching in class.

The flipped classroom approach involves watching video lessons at home and doing assignments during class. While the system may work well to an extent in some environments, it can stand in the way of students' involvement in class because they are unable to ask questions as they are being taught.

Requiring students to watch posted videos explaining a lesson does not make up for lack of instruction during class. The purpose of teaching in class is to be able to stop and explain specific parts of a lesson if students do not understand. Students require face-to-face interaction in order to fully grasp the material.When paired with not clarifying what assignments need to be completed at home and insufficient review for quarterly exams, this method of teaching holds students back from success.

The role of a teacher changes so that the teacher's only role during class is to ensure that students are continuing to do their work. The teacher is an integral aspect to education because they explain the lessons and present examples and teach more than students can learn in a fifteen minute YouTube video. Their role is to allow students to ask questions and guide them to develop the skills they need to succeed, but in the flipped classroom setting, they act more as a monitor and do not give students the guidance they require to succeed.

While some may vouch for an adaptation to create a more efficient modern education system, the pattern of taking notes during class and doing homework at home has worked in schools for centuries for a reason. Students learn better from having their lesson taught directly to them and then practicing the work by themselves. The reversal of the traditional pattern detracts from student comprehension because it does not allow them to absorb the material in a classroom setting.

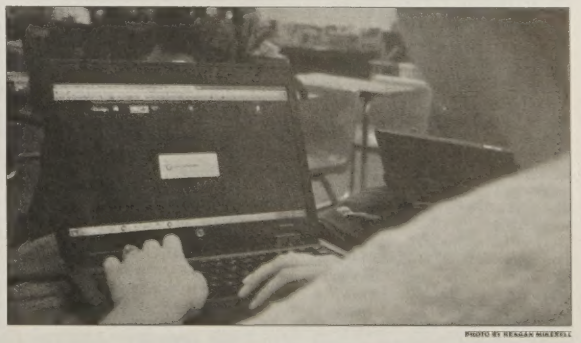


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Video lessons lack effectiveness when they are consistently used as long term methodology.

2015-2016 Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KYLIE POLING

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Tessa Virgilio

COPY EDITOR
Ethan Zweig

PHOTO EDITOR
Reagan Mikesell

ONLINE EDITOR
Adam Swiatkowski

NEWS EDITOR
Michal Spanjer

OPINION EDITOR
Katie Maher

LIFE EDITOR
Awbrei Vachon

SPORTS EDITOR
Kaylee Yanovich

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
Emma Leininger

DESIGNER
Melana Rossi

ADVISER
Terri Nowak

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Pawandeep Bola
Yana Weir

WRITERS
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members supports the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

designed by emma leininger

LIFE

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN MCNEAL

DECA students qualify for internationals

BY ARIKA AKIN
Writer

On Feb 28, students involved in the Indiana State Association of Marketing Students (DECA), organization travelled to Indianapolis to compete with over 3000 students for a chance to go to internationals in Nashville on April 23. Out of 78 spartans, six were able to excel in their categories and go on to internationals.

DECA is a business-minded co-curricular activity which is intended to appeal to students interested in a career related to business and marketing. However, students with interests in any career can join DECA and work on their presentation, public speaking, and problem-solving skills.

"I decided to do DECA my freshman year," Jodi Camino (10) said, "Because at that point I was interested in maybe doing business in college or as a career, but the state competition was great and the roleplays were fun."

Students can work in groups or on their own; they can write essays, perform role-plays, create advertising campaigns, work on their marketing skills and go through virtual business challenges.

"I wrote a paper over hospitality and tourism for my topic this year, basically it was about engaging employees," Susan Chen (10) said.

> "I take a student who's just an average Homestead student and they make it to the ICDC, they put their heart and soul into DECA, and they love it."
>
> **BRIAN MCNEAL**
> *Business teacher*

Participants have options to work on speeches and essays relating to hospitality, marketing, business management and finances. Even students interested in more niche topics, such as restaurant management or sports and entertainment marketing can find an event for themselves.

Students who are not interested in business, and are not in any business classes, can find something to participate in as well.

"This is my second year in DECA," Morgan Branning (12) said. "I originally joined because my friend said it was a lot of fun, and last year I wanted to go into business, but after I signed up I realized that I am not going into business."

The organization is not a huge time commitment, either, as students can choose to put as much or as little time into it as they feel necessary. However, those who work hard and put a lot into their events tend to excel more than those who do not, no matter their class rank or GPA.

"I love it when you get the strongest students out there, the who's who of AP and stuff like that because they do well, but my true enjoyment is when I take a student who's just an average Homestead student and they make it to the ICDC, they put their heart and soul into DECA, and they love it," Brian McNeal, district coordinator for DECA and business teacher, said.

Students who are the top five in their categories at district competitions have the chance to go to state competitions, held in downtown Indianapolis. Students complete an exam, perform their event and have the chance to ship at the circle center mall.

DECA will be accepting new members in fall next year, and McNeal is very interested in getting underclassmen to join.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAYNA KRIEGEL

Varsity dance team poses for picture at Preview Day. Top row: Channing Davis (12) and Jade Degitz (12). Middle row: Carly Wilcox (9), Hannah Dickey (12), Alexa Ennis (12), Meredith Gray (11), Sophie Schwartz (10), Karli Barsantee (10) and Courtney Ferguson (11). Front row: Jenna Kilnker (11), Raegan Casey (10), Afua Addo (11), Alayna Kriegel (11), Jensen Conrad (9) and Katia Clymer (12).

Tight knit dance team competes at state finals

Small ensemble wins state, large ensemble named runner-up, JV named runner-up in hop-hop

BY EMMA PEARL
Writer

March: the month of state. Kids involved in everything from gymnastics to Latin to broadcasting put forth their best effort in March's ultimate state competitions. These students show up early, looking forward to an exciting year of competing, ready to put in the work and eventually leave it all on the floor at state--ready to win their rightful titles. In the mix was the dance team, who won its pride with blood, sweat and tears.

"Our JV team was runner up in hip-hop, and third in jazz," Britney Lombardo, dance team coach, said. "Then in varsity, in both hip-hop and jazz, placed fifth in state. Our small ensemble, which consists of three people, was actually state champions. Then our large ensemble, which consists of six people, was runner up as well."

Though these girls were more than pleased with their achievements, being champions was not what it all came down to at the end of the day, especially for Mya Chandler (10), who has been dancing for seven years.

"I don't really think placement matters," Chandler said. "I think what we put into it and how we feel as a team matters, as long as we did our best."

Whatever these ladies owe to their teammates, they owe just as much to their coach and their teacher.

"She pushes us in ways that other dance teachers haven't pushed me," Alayna Kriegel (11) said. "She motivates us, but then again, she's still hard on us, which is good for the team."

Lombardo agrees, but her intentions run a bit deeper.

"I care about my students and I try to teach them more life lessons," Lombardo said. "I think that's definitely a really important factor when you're a coach. It's not necessarily about winning and winning and winning. You're teaching them how to win, but you're also teaching them how to be leaders and how to work as a team in the real world."

Aside from the life lessons, Lombardo makes sure that her girls remember why they do dance in the first place.

"I think it's important for the dancers to know that yes, you can be competitive, but at the end of the day, you can't lose the art form," Lombardo said. "That is what makes dance so passionate and amazing for people to watch."

Lombardo has raised the hotly debated question of whether dance is a sport or an art. Most would deny the athletic and competitive nature of the team and claim the activity as solely art, but the girls of the school's dance team would not be inclined to agree.

"I don't really get offended when people say it's not a sport," Kriegel said. "It's an art because you are dancing with your body and you're painting pictures with your body, but we do work hard. We do sweat. We gain muscles. So, in that aspect, it's a sport."

Ultimately, deciding whether dance is a sport or simply performance art does not affect how the girls perform, which is evident by their performance at state this year and hopefully in years to come.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAYNA KRIEGEL

Homestead's small ensemble placed first at state.

FCCLA will travel to California for nationals

Coffee bar fundraiser gives five students a chance to go to national convention with club

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a national organization which incorporates family consumer sciences along with educating students on different career options.The club here is organized by Tiffany Ham, Child development teacher, Laura Good, foods teacher and Susan Ward, fashion design teacher; together they focus on helping to improve the community and the lives of students.

The career options explored ranged from fashion design to entrepreneurship in which the students all took to state to compete in their prefered category. This year, five students qualified for nationals: Kynadee Nikole (9), Annabelle Lessner (10), Cobi Schieferste (10), Nicole Strouts(11) and Alex Clifford (12). What is unique about FCCLA is not everyone needs to compete; it is ultimately up to the student. For the ones who decide to take on the challenge, they choose a career category and create a model of something which could be used in the given profession. Lessner and Schieferste are partners in entrepreneurship, and they work in the coffee bar every morning outside the cafeteria which happens to be their business model.

"Once I joined I got an interest in (the coffee bar), and so I started helping and adding the cold beverages and then we added the poptarts and then Mrs.Ham expressed to me about the entrepreneurship competition," Scheiferste said.

The girls began preparing for the state competition by creating a portfolio with all the information needed about their business, such as health codes, mission statement, marketing ideas and anything else relating to the particular business. Each student had to make a presentation for the competition whether or not they made a full business or a model product.

> "I think that anyone that really loves giving back to the community and do service projects should join."
>
> **TIFFANY HAM**
> *Child Development teacher*

The students start preparing from the beginning of the school year up until state, which is in February. At the state competition, they are put in front of three judges who then critique their idea based upon a whole rubric of guidelines the students received at the start of the project. Only the top two in each category move onto state and every Spartan is heading to nationals this summer.

A unique aspect of this club is not all members compete in state, they just go to the meetings for the service projects. FCCLA is filled with students who want to help and inspire others to do good around their communities. At each meeting they discuss upcoming projects or work on ongoing projects they already have started. Some service projects benefit lives of the staff here or the lives of people in the community.

"We do different service projects so we make blankets for different homeless shelters and we made cookies for the custodians, and we do different things to help out people in the community," Lessner said.

FCCLA is a year round club and is open to any student who wants to help give back to the community or anyone interested in family consumer science careers.

"I think anyone that really loves giving back to the community (and) doing service projects (should join)... also just people who really want to meet some awesome people because I'm not kidding I think we have the greatest kids in our group," Ham said

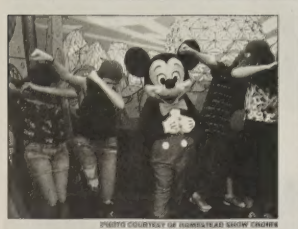


PHOTO COURTESY OF HOMESTEAD SHOW CHOIRS

Elite and Class Royale girls "dab" alongside Mickey Mouse during a day out in the parks.

Show choirs win in Orlando

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM AND MARY LANDRIGAN
Writers

It is a miracle in itself how the human body can bear the weight of layers of false eyelashes, foundation, sunscreen, a feathery costume or two and hair pieces long enough to scratch a girl's tailbone. But busing 110 kids for 22 hours straight to compete in a national competition, and then winning, is quite the feat.

With judges from across the country, and competitors jazz-handing and high-kicking their way from Alaska, Florida, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia, both of the two show choirs had their work cut out for them. Disney World's vow to its consumers guarantees of dreams coming true, and on a steamy, 85-degree Saturday evening in Typhoon Lagoon, they surely did.

110 students traveled with the choirs

Class Royale won a Superior rating as well as the gold best-in-show award for its "Fiesta" show, a party where the performers showcased their fun side. Elite finished close behind with their own Superior rating and silver trophy for "Navy Wives," a show working around the concept of a woman's husband leaving for the Navy and climaxes with the reuniting of the husband and wife. With the top two awards available, the show choirs carted home a fair amount of hardware.

Though there was no category for Anonymous Blue to win, the band received an abundance of accolades from music professors and band directors who were able to hear its performance. However, the musicians agreed the best part of the awards ceremony was when Todd Roth, band director, picked Mickey Mouse up and shook him around, earning him stern looks from the emcee, though Mickey looked happy as ever throughout the entire debacle, that permanent smile ever-glowing. It was the first time for seniors to win the grand champion title.

The victory in Florida continued the success of the show choirs and the Anonymous Blue back-up band. The choir has previously participated and won national competitions; it makes the trip to the national competition every other year. The location of the national show choir competition changes from year to year, with the 2016 competition taking place in famed Orlando, Fla.

1,100 miles to Disney World

Of course, a trek to Orlando would be incomplete without some theme park fun, so students exercised the grit of their vocal chords on Magic Kingdom's Space Mountain, in the ear of a certain Flynn Rider and, of course, on the bus, where the playlists were exclusively classic oldies, from Fleetwood Mac to Hall & Oats and Foreigner. Students spent much of Mar. 10-12 in the different parks, free to roam around and wait in lines as much as their hearts desired.

Following its trip to Orlando, the choirs hopped back on their buses to Fort Wayne to compete at their final competition the following week, to the dismay and tears of the seniors participating. In two years, the show choirs get to make yet another national trek to the next competition, wherever it may be.

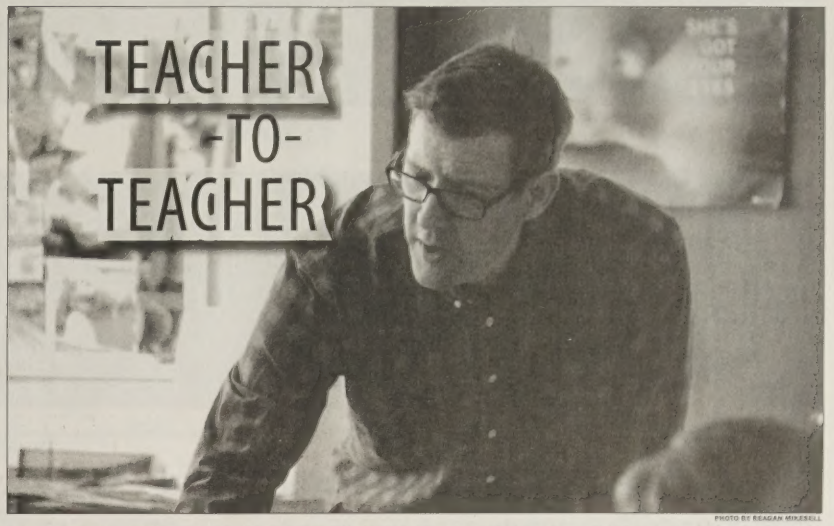


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Scott Hill, English teacher, has been named a member of the Armstrong Teacher Educator Award for upcoming 2016-2017 school year.

Scott Hill one of eight teachers selected for IU School of Education cohort

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-in-Chief

Each academic year the Indiana University School of Education accepts eight teachers to take part in the Martha Lea and Bill Armstrong Teacher Educator cohort. For the 2016-2017 school year, Scott Hill, English teacher, has been selected to partake in the program.

Also from the Southwest Allen County School district is Jean Russell, literacy specialist at Haverhill Elementary and former fifth grade teacher at Whispering Meadows Elementary, who has also been awarded the opportunity to work with IU education students.

"This new cohort of exemplary teachers shares a deep commitment to helping all students learn and grow," Rob Kunzman, chair of the program, said.

While the Armstrong Award is not necessarily well known, it poses an invaluable platform for current teachers to mentor those entering the teaching field. Working with future teachers is the main goal of the program; however, teachers named to the cohort are also able to receive financial support from IU in order to work in IU classrooms, on research projects and in early field experiences.

"It's a working award; they make you earn it," Hill said. "It'll feel more meaningful that way."

The process for the application involves an introspective look at teaching.

"One of the most enjoyable parts of the process is that it requires me to compose something of my own philosophy or approach to teaching," Hill said. "It's nice to get assignments sometimes, so the application process itself was enjoyable."

Hill was nominated to be an Armstrong Educator by Dr. Phil Downs, superintendent, and Park Ginder, principal, for the opportunity. One of the reasons Hill was chosen to be nominated for the Armstrong Award was because he is an IU alum.

However, Hill was selected more importantly because of "his willingness to help others and his creativity in the classroom," Ginder said.

With part of the program's focus on allowing current teachers to mentor new teachers, those unique classroom skills allowed Hill to secure a place in the cohort.

"One of my mantras in writing class is make it weird...and winning the award is a nice affirmation of that," Hill said.

Hill remains humble about the experience, though, in typical fashion.

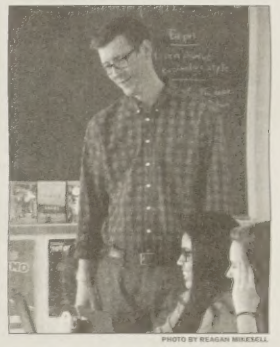


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Scott Hill, English teacher, answers a student's question during classtime.

"It's fun to win anything, whether it's ping-pong or beating your kid in tic-tac-toe."

Of course, though, the Armstrong Teacher Educator Award allows Hill to visit his old college town, but instead of learning how to teach, he will be teaching the next generation of teachers.

"There's a two day trip at the end of April that I get to go down (to Bloomington) for, and that's something I'm looking forward to, the chance to be back on a beautiful campus and ride my bike in the hills of Southern Indiana," Hill said.

FIVE ERRORS OF HIGH SCHOOL *and how to avoid them*

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

The literal definition of the word 'life' is dull. Denotatively put, life includes processes such as metabolism, adaptation, growth and reproduction (*yawn*), and if you're not accomplishing these mandatory tasks, you're not living; you're not alive. Luckily, by definition, we're all partaking in this thing called 'life,' but there's a lot more to life than just these basic biological phenomena. In my opinion, most of us are barely living at all. Basically, the task at hand is simply to put away the biology microscope and pull out a magnifying glass equipped for the macroscopic analysis of the errors inhibiting us from living our best lives.

Warning: extensive cliches dead ahead.

Error 1: Our lives are relatively monotonous. If you've ever been lucky enough to have teachers such as Dr. David Price, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about. We repeat the same things day in and day out: sleep, eat, participate in society (school, work, sports, etc.), procrastinate, sleep again and so on. Monotony plays a seriously detrimental part in the decline of our overall life experience. Thus, don't hesitate to spice things up. Do things a little differently. Take chances, make new friends, visit new places and weasel out of your normal routine as much as you can.

Error 2: Don't live for other people. Live for yourself. I don't care if it's a parent, a girlfriend/boyfriend, a friend or anyone else, never be someone else's little puppet. If you're sacrificing your precious time on this earth trying to make another human being happy, someone who is perfectly capable of finding their own happiness, you're wasting your life away. Obviously sometimes people need to compromise, but when you're constantly having to change or hide who you are for somebody, it's not healthy and definitely won't make you happy.

Error 3: Technology is honestly a godsend, but it's simultaneously robbing us of little everyday moments. It may not seem like a big deal, but all of those insignificant moments add up to a significant chunk of your life you're letting swirl straight down the toilet. We spend way too much time staring down at our phones, at TV/computer screens or video games and end up missing beautiful views around us all the time. Just take it all in. Don't let technology consume your life. After all, what are you going to remember more: the day you sat in your room aimlessly scrolling through your feed for hours or what could have been the day you went on a walk in the park and stumbled across an elderly couple walking their cat?

> "Take chances, make new friends, visit new places and weasel out of your normal routine as much as you can."

Error 4: Honestly I know this one sucks to hear, but a lot of us aren't very healthy. We're lazy and careless, which is fine sometimes, but we weigh ourselves down with all the junk we eat in our nearly sedentary lifestyles. We complain so much about having to exercise and make healthy diet decisions, but 10, 20, 30 years from now we're going to be paying for all of the damage we've done to our health. You only get one body. You absolutely have to take care of it.

If you feel like eating nutritious foods and working out makes your life absolutely terrible and utterly unbearable, don't do it. But don't come crying to me when you have health problems and wrinkly, dry skin at age 30.

Error 5: Stop doing things that don't make you happy. Obviously if school doesn't make you happy, I'm sorry but you're going to have to live with it for a little while, but you can start taking steps to maybe graduate early if you'd like to. If you don't like playing sports or playing an instrument or keeping a certain person in your life, then stop. It's simple. Just do what makes you happy. Except drugs. Don't do drugs. Sitting in the crummy ruins of your college friend's cheap apartment doing drugs is NOT, at all, in any way what I am preaching here. Make sure whatever it is you're doing to be happy is also beneficial to your wellbeing.

Simply put, life is way too short to not enjoy every moment of every day to the best of your capabilities. Look for the things in your life that are holding you back from living the best life you can. Breathing may give you life, but it's up to you to make something of it. Be alive. Feel the wind in your hair, the sunshine on your face and the grass beneath your feet. Stop taking this beautiful world for granted and go out there and make some crazy, amazing memories.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN MCNEAL

DECA students qualify for internationals

BY ARIKA AKIN
Writer

On Feb 28, students involved in the Indiana State Association of Marketing Students (DECA), organization travelled to Indianapolis to compete with over 3000 students for a chance to go to internationals in Nashville on April 23. Out of 78 spartans, six were able to excel in their categories and go on to internationals.

DECA is a business-minded co-curricular activity which is intended to appeal to students interested in a career related to business and marketing. However, students with interests in any career can join DECA and work on their presentation, public speaking, and problem-solving skills.

"I decided to do DECA my freshman year," Jodi Camino (10) said, "Because at that point I was interested in maybe doing business in college or as a career, but the state competition was great and the roleplays were fun."

Students can work in groups or on their own; they can write essays, perform role-plays, create advertising campaigns, work on their marketing skills and go through virtual business challenges.

"I wrote a paper over hospitality and tourism for my topic this year, basically it was about engaging employees," Susan Chen (10) said.

> "I take a student who's just an average Homestead student and they make it to the ICDC, they put their heart and soul into DECA, and they love it."
>
> **BRIAN MCNEAL**
> *Business teacher*

Participants have options to work on speeches and essays relating to hospitality, marketing, business management and finances. Even students interested in more niche topics, such as restaurant management or sports and entertainment marketing can find an event for themselves.

Students who are not interested in business, and are not in any business classes, can find something to participate in as well.

"This is my second year in DECA," Morgan Branning (12) said. "I originally joined because my friend said it was a lot of fun, and last year I wanted to go into business, but after I signed up I realized that I am not going into business."

The organization is not a huge time commitment, either, as students can choose to put as much or as little time into it as they feel necessary. However, those who work hard and put a lot into their events tend to excel more than those who do not, no matter their class rank or GPA.

"I love it when you get the strongest students out there, the who's who of AP and stuff like that because they do well, but my true enjoyment is when I take a student who's just an average Homestead student and they make it to the ICDC, they put their heart and soul into DECA, and they love it," Brian McNeal, district coordinator for DECA and business teacher, said.

Students who are the top five in their categories at district competitions have the chance to go to state competitions, held in downtown Indianapolis. Students complete an exam, perform their event and have the chance to ship at the circle center mall.

DECA will be accepting new members in fall next year, and McNeal is very interested in getting underclassmen to join.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAYNA KRIEGEL

Varsity dance team poses for picture at Preview Day. Top row: Channing Davis (12) and Jade Degitz (12). Middle row: Carly Wilcox (9), Hannah Dickey (12), Alexa Ennis (12), Meredith Gray (11), Sophie Schwartz (10), Karli Barsantee (10) and Courtney Ferguson (11). Front row: Jenna Kilnker (11), Raegan Casey (10), Afua Addo (11), Alayna Kriegel (11), Jensen Conrad (9) and Katia Clymer (12).

Tight knit dance team competes at state finals

Small ensemble wins state, large ensemble named runner-up, JV named runner-up in hop-hop

BY EMMA PEARL
Writer

March: the month of state. Kids involved in everything from gymnastics to Latin to broadcasting put forth their best effort in March's ultimate state competitions. These students show up early, looking forward to an exciting year of competing, ready to put in the work and eventually leave it all on the floor at state--ready to win their rightful titles. In the mix was the dance team, who won its pride with blood, sweat and tears.

"Our JV team was runner up in hip-hop, and third in jazz," Britney Lombardo, dance team coach, said. "Then in varsity, in both hip-hop and jazz, placed fifth in state. Our small ensemble, which consists of three people, was actually state champions. Then our large ensemble, which consists of six people, was runner up as well."

Though these girls were more than pleased with their achievements, being champions was not what it all came down to at the end of the day, especially for Mya Chandler (10), who has been dancing for seven years.

"I don't really think placement matters," Chandler said. "I think what we put into it and how we feel as a team matters, as long as we did our best."

Whatever these ladies owe to their teammates, they owe just as much to their coach and their teacher.

"She pushes us in ways that other dance teachers haven't pushed me," Alayna Kriegel (11) said. "She motivates us, but then again, she's still hard on us, which is good for the team."

Lombardo agrees, but her intentions run a bit deeper.

"I care about my students and I try to teach them more life lessons," Lombardo said. "I think that's definitely a really important factor when you're a coach. It's not necessarily about winning and winning and winning. You're teaching them how to win, but you're also teaching them how to be leaders and how to work as a team in the real world."

Aside from the life lessons, Lombardo makes sure that her girls remember why they do dance in the first place.

"I think it's important for the dancers to know that yes, you can be competitive, but at the end of the day, you can't lose the art form," Lombardo said. "That is what makes dance so passionate and amazing for people to watch."

Lombardo has raised the hotly debated question of whether dance is a sport or an art. Most would deny the athletic and competitive nature of the team and claim the activity as solely art, but the girls of the school's dance team would not be inclined to agree.

"I don't really get offended when people say it's not a sport," Kriegel said. "It's an art because you are dancing with your body and you're painting pictures with your body, but we do work hard. We do sweat. We gain muscles. So, in that aspect, it's a sport."

Ultimately, deciding whether dance is a sport or simply performance art does not affect how the girls perform, which is evident by their performance at state this year and hopefully in years to come.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAYNA KRIEGEL

Homestead's small ensemble placed first at state.

FCCLA will travel to California for nationals

Coffee bar fundraiser gives five students a chance to go to national convention with club

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Writer

Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a national organization which incorporates family consumer sciences along with educating students on different career options.The club here is organized by Tiffany Ham, Child development teacher, Laura Good, foods teacher and Susan Ward, fashion design teacher; together they focus on helping to improve the community and the lives of students.

The career options explored ranged from fashion design to entrepreneurship in which the students all took to state to compete in their prefered category. This year, five students qualified for nationals: Kynadee Nikole (9), Annabelle Lessner (10), Cobi Schieferste (10), Nicole Strouts(11) and Alex Clifford (12). What is unique about FCCLA is not everyone needs to compete; it is ultimately up to the student. For the ones who decide to take on the challenge, they choose a career category and create a model of something which could be used in the given profession. Lessner and Schieferste are partners in entrepreneurship, and they work in the coffee bar every morning outside the cafeteria which happens to be their business model.

"Once I joined I got an interest in (the coffee bar), and so I started helping and adding the cold beverages and then we added the pop-tarts and then Mrs.Ham expressed to me about the entrepreneurship competition," Scheiferste said.

The girls began preparing for the state competition by creating a portfolio with all the information needed about their business, such as health codes, mission statement, marketing ideas and anything else relating to the particular business. Each student had to make a presentation for the competition whether or not they made a full business or a model product.

> "I think that anyone that really loves giving back to the community and do service projects should join."
>
> **TIFFANY HAM**
> *Child Development teacher*

The students start preparing from the beginning of the school year up until state, which is in February. At the state competition, they are put in front of three judges who then critique their idea based upon a whole rubric of guidelines the students received at the start of the project. Only the top two in each category move onto state and every Spartan is heading to nationals this summer.

A unique aspect of this club is not all members compete in state, they just go to the meetings for the service projects. FCCLA is filled with students who want to help and inspire others to do good around their communities. At each meeting they discuss upcoming projects or work on ongoing projects they already have started. Some service projects benefit lives of the staff here or the lives of people in the community.

"We do different service projects so we make blankets for different homeless shelters and we made cookies for the custodians, and we do different things to help out people in the community," Lessner said.

FCCLA is a year round club and is open to any student who wants to help give back to the community or anyone interested in family consumer science careers.

"I think anyone that really loves giving back to the community (and) doing service projects (should join)... also just people who really want to meet some awesome people because I'm not kidding I think we have the greatest kids in our group," Ham said

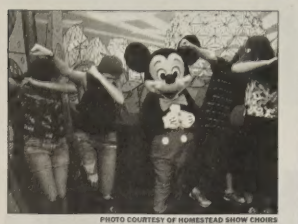


PHOTO COURTESY OF HOMESTEAD SHOW CHOIRS

Elite and Class Royale girls "dab" alongside Mickey Mouse during a day out in the parks.

Show choirs win in Orlando

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM AND MARY LANDRIGAN
Writers

It is a miracle in itself how the human body can bear the weight of layers of false eyelashes, foundation, sunscreen, a feathery costume or two and hair pieces long enough to scratch a girl's tailbone. But busing 110 kids for 22 hours straight to compete in a national competition, and then winning, is quite the feat.

With judges from across the country, and competitors jazz-handing and high-kicking their way from Alaska, Florida, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia, both of the two show choirs had their work cut out for them. Disney World's vow to its consumers guarantees of dreams coming true, and on a steamy, 85-degree Saturday evening in Typhoon Lagoon, they surely did.

110 students traveled with the choirs

Class Royale won a Superior rating as well as the gold best-in-show award for its "Fiesta" show, a party where the performers showcased their fun side. Elite finished close behind with their own Superior rating and silver trophy for "Navy Wives," a show working around the concept of a woman's husband leaving for the Navy and climaxes with the reuniting of the husband and wife. With the top two awards available, the show choirs carted home a fair amount of hardware.

Though there was no category for Anonymous Blue to win, the band received an abundance of accolades from music professors and band directors who were able to hear its performance. However, the musicians agreed the best part of the awards ceremony was when Todd Roth, band director, picked Mickey Mouse up and shook him around, earning him stern looks from the emcee, though Mickey looked happy as ever throughout the entire debacle, that permanent smile ever-glowing. It was the first time for seniors to win the grand champion title.

The victory in Florida continued the success of the show choirs and the Anonymous Blue back-up band. The choir has previously participated and won national competitions; it makes the trip to the national competition every other year. The location of the national show choir competition changes from year to year, with the 2016 competition taking place in famed Orlando, Fla.

1,100 miles to Disney World

Of course, a trek to Orlando would be incomplete without some theme park fun, so students exercised the grit of their vocal chords on Magic Kingdom's Space Mountain, in the ear of a certain Flynn Rider and, of course, on the bus, where the playlists were exclusively classic oldies, from Fleetwood Mac to Hall & Oats and Foreigner. Students spent much of Mar. 10-12 in the different parks, free to roam around and wait in lines as much as their hearts desired.

Following its trip to Orlando, the choirs hopped back on their buses to Fort Wayne to compete at their final competition the following week, to the dismay and tears of the seniors participating. In two years, the show choirs get to make yet another national trek to the next competition, wherever it may be.

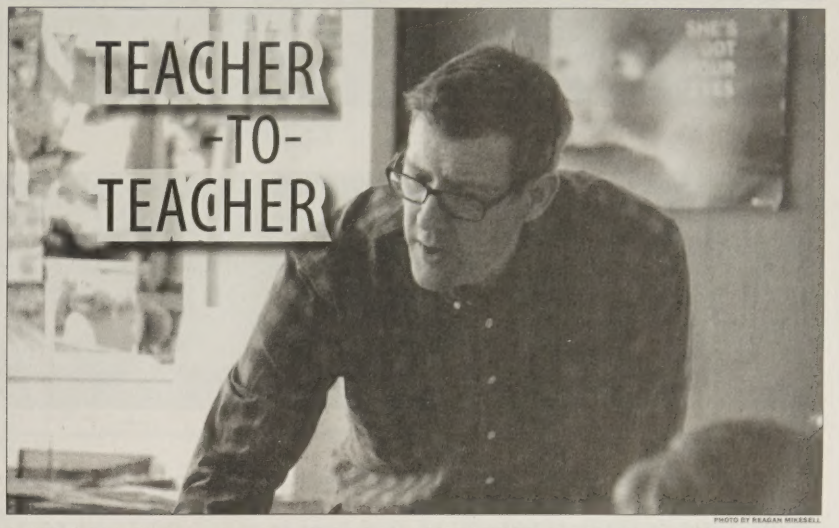


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Scott Hill, English teacher, has been named a member of the Armstrong Teacher Educator Award for upcoming 2016-2017 school year.

Scott Hill one of eight teachers selected for IU School of Education cohort

BY KYLIE POLING
Editor-in-Chief

Each academic year the Indiana University School of Education accepts eight teachers to take part in the Martha Lea and Bill Armstrong Teacher Educator cohort. For the 2016-2017 school year, Scott Hill, English teacher, has been selected to partake in the program.

Also from the Southwest Allen County School district is Jean Russell, literacy specialist at Haverhill Elementary and former fifth grade teacher at Whispering Meadows Elementary, who has also been awarded the opportunity to work with IU education students.

"This new cohort of exemplary teachers shares a deep commitment to helping all students learn and grow," Rob Kunzman, chair of the program, said.

While the Armstrong Award is not necessarily well known, it poses an invaluable platform for current teachers to mentor those entering the teaching field. Working with future teachers is the main goal of the program; however, teachers named to the cohort are also able to receive financial support from IU in order to work in IU classrooms, on research projects and in early field experiences.

"It's a working award; they make you earn it," Hill said. "It'll feel more meaningful that way."

The process for the application involves an introspective look at teaching.

"One of the most enjoyable parts of the process is that it requires me to compose something of my own philosophy or approach to teaching," Hill said. "It's nice to get assignments sometimes, so the application process itself was enjoyable."

Hill was nominated to be an Armstrong Educator by Dr. Phil Downs, superintendent, and Park Ginder, principal, for the opportunity. One of the reasons Hill was chosen to be nominated for the Armstrong Award was because he is an IU alum.

However, Hill was selected more importantly because of "his willingness to help others and his creativity in the classroom," Ginder said.

With part of the program's focus on allowing current teachers to mentor new teachers, those unique classroom skills allowed Hill to secure a place in the cohort.

"One of my mantras in writing class is make it weird...and winning the award is a nice affirmation of that," Hill said.

Hill remains humble about the experience, though, in typical fashion.

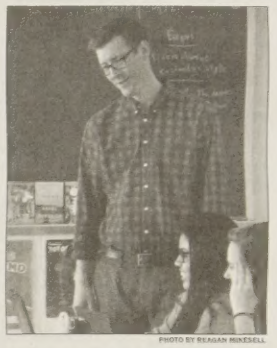


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Scott Hill, English teacher, answers a student's question during classtime.

"It's fun to win anything, whether it's ping-pong or beating your kid in tic-tac-toe."

Of course, though, the Armstrong Teacher Educator Award allows Hill to visit his old college town, but instead of learning how to teach, he will be teaching the next generation of teachers.

"There's a two day trip at the end of April that I get to go down (to Bloomington) for, and that's something I'm looking forward to, the chance to be back on a beautiful campus and ride my bike in the hills of Southern Indiana," Hill said.

FIVE ERRORS OF HIGH SCHOOL *and how to avoid them*

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor

The literal definition of the word 'life' is dull. Denotatively put, life includes processes such as metabolism, adaptation, growth and reproduction (*yawn*), and if you're not accomplishing these mandatory tasks, you're not living; you're not alive. Luckily, by definition, we're all partaking in this thing called 'life,' but there's a lot more to life than just these basic biological phenomena. In my opinion, most of us are barely living at all. Basically, the task at hand is simply to put away the biology microscope and pull out a magnifying glass equipped for the macroscopic analysis of the errors inhibiting us from living our best lives.

Warning: extensive cliches dead ahead.

Error 1: Our lives are relatively monotonous. If you've ever been lucky enough to have teachers such as Dr. David Price, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about. We repeat the same things day in and day out: sleep, eat, participate in society (school, work, sports, etc.), procrastinate, sleep again and so on. Monotony plays a seriously detrimental part in the decline of our overall life experience. Thus, don't hesitate to spice things up. Do things a little differently. Take chances, make new friends, visit new places and weasel out of your normal routine as much as you can.

Error 2: Don't live for other people. Live for yourself. I don't care if it's a parent, a girlfriend/boyfriend, a friend or anyone else, never be someone else's little puppet. If you're sacrificing your precious time on this earth trying to make another human being happy, someone who is perfectly capable of finding their own happiness, you're wasting your life away. Obviously sometimes people need to compromise, but when you're constantly having to change or hide who you are for somebody, it's not healthy and definitely won't make you happy.

Error 3: Technology is honestly a godsend, but it's simultaneously robbing us of little everyday moments. It may not seem like a big deal, but all of those insignificant moments add up to a significant chunk of your life you're letting swirl straight down the toilet. We spend way too much time staring down at our phones, at TV/computer screens or video games and end up missing beautiful views around us all the time. Just take it all in. Don't let technology consume your life. After all, what are you going to remember more: the day you sat in your room aimlessly scrolling through your feed for hours or what could have been the day you went on a walk in the park and stumbled across an elderly couple walking their cat?

> "Take chances, make new friends, visit new places and weasel out of your normal routine as much as you can."

Error 4: Honestly I know this one sucks to hear, but a lot of us aren't very healthy. We're lazy and careless, which is fine sometimes, but we weigh ourselves down with all the junk we eat in our nearly sedentary lifestyles. We complain so much about having to exercise and make healthy diet decisions, but 10, 20, 30 years from now we're going to be paying for all of the damage we've done to our health. You only get one body. You absolutely have to take care of it.

If you feel like eating nutritious foods and working out makes your life absolutely terrible and utterly unbearable, don't do it. But don't come crying to me when you have health problems and wrinkly, dry skin at age 30.

Error 5: Stop doing things that don't make you happy. Obviously if school doesn't make you happy, I'm sorry but you're going to have to live with it for a little while, but you can start taking steps to maybe graduate early if you'd like to. If you don't like playing sports or playing an instrument or keeping a certain person in your life, then stop. It's simple. Just do what makes you happy. Except drugs. Don't do drugs. Sitting in the crummy ruins of your college friend's cheap apartment doing drugs is NOT, at all, in any way what I am preaching here. Make sure whatever it is you're doing to be happy is also beneficial to your wellbeing.

Simply put, life is way too short to not enjoy every moment of every day to the best of your capabilities. Look for the things in your life that are holding you back from living the best life you can. Breathing may give you life, but it's up to you to make something of it. Be alive. Feel the wind in your hair, the sunshine on your face and the grass beneath your feet. Stop taking this beautiful world for granted and go out there and make some crazy, amazing memories.

COURTESY OF JODI HARAWICK

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

LEFT: The gymnastics girls pose in a circle to commemorate a competition. RIGHT: The Champions Together basketball team plays its first game. BELOW: Swimmers prepare for their races.

Winter recap: gymnastics, swim & dive and wrestling

Successful seasons culminate in post-season runs, make way for spring sports to begin again

BY TESSA VIRGILIO
Executive Editor

Much acclaim has surrounded the 2015-16 winter season, with gymnastics, swim and dive and wrestling teams achieving ranks that validate their dedication and effort throughout recent months. Across the board, high placement at sectional competition fueled the continuous stamina and positive morale the winter teams employed throughout their respective seasons.

GYMNASTICS

The gymnastics team placed second in sectionals and third in regional competition, a slim tenth of a point shy of second place with a 106.25. The regional performance was maximized by Catherine Milne (9) with her best score to date in the all-around event, placing fourth with a 36.325. These placements entered them into the state championship, giving the girls an opportunity to showcase their winter of hard work.

At the state competition on Mar. 12 at Ball State University, they took home a ninth place finish, making it their fifth appearance at state in the last six seasons.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

The boys' and girls' swimming and diving teams wrapped up a dynamically successful season this past February.

The sectional competition awarded the swim and dive girls second place at South Side on Feb. 6. The girls season was captioned by Jackie Brenn (9) who became the first freshman ever to win the diving state championship and first diver from the school to champion the event; she won the one meter diving competition with a 485.45. Teammates Kayla Luarde (10) and Mallory Walker (9) placed sixth and eleventh, respectively. Megan Johnson (11) snagged eighth place in the 100 and 200 yard freestyle. Kaitlyn Ducker (12) scored seventh place in the 100 yard butterfly and thirteenth in the 200 yard IM. The 200 yard freestyle relay team received eighth place and the 400 yard relay team placed tenth. The girls left the IUPUI Natatorium on Feb. 13 having concluded the season with a seventh place state finish with 114 points, swimming two places ahead of rivals Carroll Chargers.

On the boys' end, the season proved nothing short of rewarding. At the sectional competition on Feb. 20, the boys triumphed over rival Carroll to snap the first place finish.

At the state meet, Kevin Frebel (12) championed the one meter dive, as he did at sectional competition, with a first place finish for the second season in a row, leaving competitors in the dust by over 100 points with a score of 613.35.

Jill Eakright, diving coach, is now the second diving coach in Indiana history to have both the girls and boys state champion, for diving this year, in the same season. Noah Marble (11) took third in diving, the 200 medley relay team finished seventh and Cameron Frank (12), Chip Herendeen (12), Bryce Warner (12) and Noah Dalton (12) also placed among the top ten in their events. The boys accomplished an eighth place finish at their state meet at IUPUI Natatorium on Feb. 27.

WRESTLING

The wrestling team made a satisfying season for themselves and swept the floor in their postseason with a second place sectional finish at New Haven on Jan. 30 and third place regional title at Carroll on Feb. 6. Wyatt Clem (12), a team captain, was a first Team Academic All-State and sectional and regional champion. Blaigh Rushing (11) was also a first Team Academic All-State and a semi-state qualifier.

Drake Rhoades (12) grabbed eighth place at state the weekend of Feb. 19 at Conseco Fieldhouse, and he ended the season as the school's new record holder for most victories, 43, in a single season. Jack Franklin (12) also qualified and competed at state; though he was forgoed a state title, he is now the all-time most winning wrestler in the school's history with 123 victories.

As the yellow-brown, snow-sodden grass morphs into vibrant blooms and fragrant scents, the baseball and softball diamonds become buzzing practice fields, the tennis rackets swing into action, the track tar becomes warm and the putting green becomes fair ground. Meanwhile, the achievement of the 2015-16 winter season will not melt away with the sparse snow that did cover school grounds; these athletes are to now relax with the hum of spring chirpings, having solace that their seasons' stats will serve as legacy for future Spartans.

COURTESY OF GALL HERENDEEN

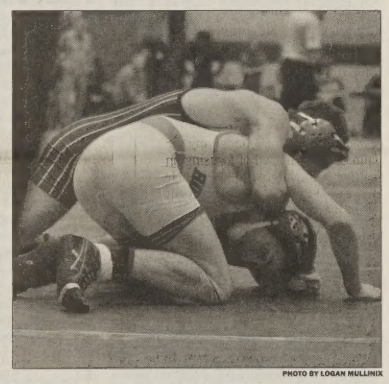


PHOTO BY LOGAN MULLINIX

Drake Rhodes (12) wrestles an opponent at sectionals.

SPRING PREVIEW

BY REAGAN MIKESELL
Photo Editor

BASEBALL

With a new head coach, the new season is can either be a flip, or a complete flop. Nick Byall, social studies teacher, has been the assistant coach for the team for the past 10 years. After the former head coach moved to Texas, Byall stepped up to the plate. The returning seniors look to have a promising season. Joey Deeter (12) and Alex Bradtmiller (12) both brought confidence to the team when the Spartans played the North Side Redskins on March 29.

SOFTBALL

After losing a large senior presence, the Lady Spartans were not exactly sure of how this upcoming season would go. Last season was successful, with the girls making their first Semi-State appearance after winning their first Regional title. Allie Barley (12) hit the first home run of the season in a pre-season game, even though it sadly did not count. Katie Lael (11), returning player, sees the potential for the girls to be successful this season like they were last season.

BOYS GOLF

This season, there are no freshmen, so they are an older team. Returning players, Ellis Yoder (11), Nick Kocks (12), Cameron Cook (11), Garrett Willis (10) and Eric Martin (12) have a lot to offer to the team this season. The boys placed seventh in state last season and Gabe Smith (11) believes they have the potential to do better this year than they did last.

GIRLS TENNIS

With their first match coming up after spring break, the girls have been working strenuously to be a top competitor this season. Lauren Ottinger (12) and Gaby Meissner (12) are key senior leaders along with Katie Stephens (12) and Vanessa Popescu (9). The girls' first match is Monday, Apr. 11.

GIRLS TRACK

A successful finish at the indoor track state meet leaves the girls with high hopes for the upcoming season. Evie Bultemeyer (11) , Grace Walther (12), Erica Lee (12) and Madison Distelrath (11) set a new record at the indoor track meet. The varsity team beat Warsaw on Mar. 29 by four points. The girls are working hard to improve their times and are preparing physically and mentally for the rest of the season.

BOYS TRACK

Jeff Livensparger, coach, says the season is going fantastic. The boys came in tenth at indoor state. Brayden Law (12) placed first in the 3200 meter race. Spencer Sholl (12), Sam Dvorak (11) and Alex Shepherd (12) finished third in their event. The team lost key seniors from last season, but brought in a talented group of newcomers. Seniors will now work with the underclassmen to bring a new confidence to the team.

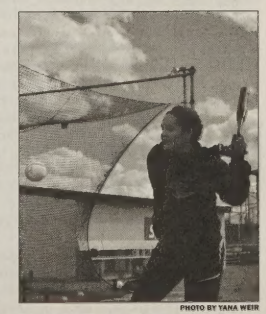


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

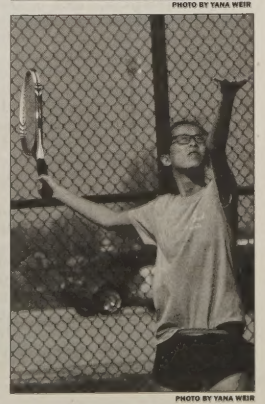


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

How athletes cope with illness during the season

Student-athletes typically put their sport before their health, mental and physical, and this can have long term negative effects on a person's body and athletic career.

While an average student will happily and gratefully take a sick day, an athlete will be much more concerned about the practice they are missing and the homework they will have to catch up on, which will waste more time that they could be conditioning.

The same goes for an injury. An athlete will try their hardest to ignore whatever pain they are experiencing for as long as possible in fear of it being something major and not being able to play or practice, even if just for a short period of time. However, as everyone knows, not taking care of an illness can lead to the illness getting worse, especially when the body is being pushed to do physical activity like sports practice or a game.

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

While it is the students' decision on whether or not to come to practice or go to a game, there is pressure being put on them by their team and, most sometimes, their coach.

Coaches stress the importance of attending every event their team has, and this makes the players feel obligated to show up under any circumstances. Instead of focusing on getting better and tending to their illness, they will just worry about what they are missing and think about how they are letting their team down, because that is what they think they are doing when they skip a game or practice.

With injury, 'pushing through it' is even more difficult on a person's body. A strain, sprain or tear can be especially detrimental to a person's athletic career if not treated, because it can turn into something worse. While athletic trainers are present and ready to help with these problems, many players will refuse to address the problem in fear of losing playing time or a certain position, which, while does show dedication, can be harmful in the long run.

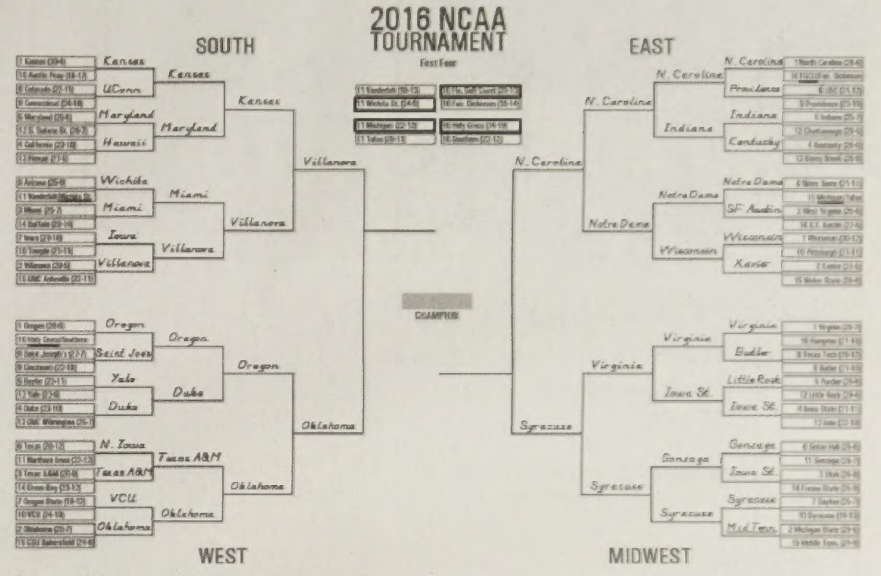
Sometimes even more destructive to an athlete's performance is mental health. In all aspects, mental health can affect a player's ability to carry out anything from simple tasks to complicated plays and drills. Most people, not just students, fail to prioritize their mental health as it does not physically disable them a majority of the time.

However, it can be even more destructive in the long run because most mental illnesses cannot be cured simply by pain medication or a trip or two to the doctor's. Many coaches fail to recognize the importance of good mental health and the effect that it can have on one's athletic and academic performance.

The most destructive of these could be substance abuse, eating disorders and depression, because of the physical effect they have on the body. With these effects taking place, not only can the athlete's performance visibly decrease, but so can their physical health. The strain of a sport along with the physical disability that a mental illness can cause has the potential to leave detrimental effects on the person's body for anywhere from a few months to the rest of their life.

Coaches have to be aware of their players physically and mental health at all times, for their team's sake and for the individual's sake. This aspect fails to be acknowledged by many coaches, parents and even the players themselves.

Students need to be responsible for their own health before they take their athletic career into consideration.



17 out of 13 million
brackets predicted all teams that are in the Sweet 16

97%
of brackets had Michigan State University advancing through the first round

41%
of brackets were eliminated after the first two games of the tournament

1
bracket was winless after 21 first round games

STATS FROM ESPN.COM

PHOTO BY FAIRANDEEN BOLA

Kendra Messer assists student Troy Rusk (10) in recovering from an injury in the athletic training office located by Door 7.

Spring brings National Athletic Training Month

Homestead's two athletic trainers make significant contributions to school athletics

BY EMMA LEININGER
Social Media Manager

National Athletic Training month is held every March in order to spread awareness of the contributions athletic trainers make to a community. Homestead's two athletic trainers Todd Jenkins and Kendra Messer provide extensive care and preventative measures for athletes in all sports.

The sport that sends the most athletes to the trainers really depends on the change in sports seasons.

"It can be a little bit hard, in the fall I would say football. It's a collision sport, but as far as chronic overuse right now it's girls track" Jenkins said.

While no one sport provides the most athletes to the trainers, they do differentiate in the reasons in which they send students down; one might be for trauma while the other could simply be for overemployment of certain muscles or ligaments.

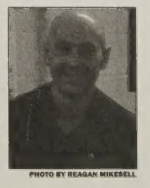


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

However, the real goal of the athletic trainers is to prevent injuries from even occurring in the first place. The amount of time trainers spend on preventative measures with each team sport is dictated by the coaching staff.

"As far as preventative measures, the role of athletic trainers is always to try and be preventative," Messer said, "but it seems like some teams are more into learning preventative techniques than others."

Girls basketball has a large focus on learning preventative measures to ensure that no harm will come to them during the season when they need to be at their best. Baseball also continuously comes to the trainers for help with preventative measures.

"I understand from a coach's point of view that can take away from their practice time if we're working on preventative measures," Jenkins said, "but the flip side is if their kids are hurt all the time and in here, then they're not in practice either."

Preventing injuries is not always possible and while the most common injuries that the athletic trainers handle on an everyday basis are sprains and strains, Jenkins and Messer are licensed to deal with injuries of all extents.

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

"We saw a girls track athlete two or three years ago who fractured her femur, and those particular bones bleed a lot," Jenkins said.

Despite this occurrence, these extreme injuries are rare and infrequent. Although these extensive injuries are uncommon, the presence of athletic trainers on the premises is extremely comforting to athletes and coaches alike.

"Having two licensed athletic trainers accessible to us ensures us that we're getting the highest level we can get," Anne Tiernon, track coach said.

Homestead's coaching staff is extremely thankful for the presence of athletic trainers and the ability access to them.

"We let the kids know they have access to them every day they're here until we leave no matter what time we leave they're here," Tiernon said.

The extent of education that a licensed athletic trainer must receive is extensive in order to guarantee the highest level of training when dealing with serious and minor injuries alike.

"We have to get a minimum of a bachelor's degree, and there is an exam you have to pass and you have to be certified through that. In Indiana we're licensed through the state, not just certified," Jenkins said.

The presence of athletic trainers is not only a comfort to athletes and coaches, but the significant contributions they make to a school system can be the dif-

COURTESY OF JODI KARAWICK

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

LEFT: The gymnastics girls pose in a circle to commemorate a competition. RIGHT: The Champions Together basketball team plays its first game. BELOW: Swimmers prepare for their races.

Winter recap: gymnastics, swim & dive and wrestling

Successful seasons culminate in post-season runs, make way for spring sports to begin again

BY TESSA VIRGILIO
Executive Editor

Much acclaim has surrounded the 2015-16 winter season, with gymnastics, swim and dive and wrestling teams achieving ranks that validate their dedication and effort throughout recent months. Across the board, high placement at sectional competition fueled the continuous stamina and positive morale the winter teams employed throughout their respective seasons.

GYMNASTICS

The gymnastics team placed second in sectionals and third in regional competition, a slim tenth of a point shy of second place with a 106.25. The regional performance was maximized by Catherine Milne (9) with her best score to date in the all-around event, placing fourth with a 36.325. These placements entered them into the state championship, giving the girls an opportunity to showcase their winter of hard work.

At the state competition on Mar. 12 at Ball State University, they took home a ninth place finish, making it their fifth appearance at state in the last six seasons.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

The boys' and girls' swimming and diving teams wrapped up a dynamically successful season this past February.

The sectional competition awarded the swim and dive girls second place at South Side on Feb. 6. The girls season was captioned by Jackie Brenn (9) who became the first freshman ever to win the diving state championship and first diver from the school to champion the event; she won the one meter diving competition with a 485.45. Teammates Kayla Luarde (10) and Mallory Walker (9) placed sixth and eleventh, respectively. Megan Johnson (11) snagged eighth place in the 100 and 200 yard freestyle. Kaitlyn Ducker (12) scored seventh place in the 100 yard butterfly and thirteenth in the 200 yard IM. The 200 yard freestyle relay team received eighth place and the 400 yard relay team placed tenth. The girls left the IUPUI Natatorium on Feb. 13 having concluded the season with a seventh place state finish with 114 points, swimming two places ahead of rivals Carroll Chargers.

On the boys' end, the season proved nothing short of rewarding. At the sectional competition on Feb. 20, the boys triumphed over rival Carroll to snap the first place finish.

At the state meet, Kevin Frebel (12) championed the one meter dive, as he did at sectional competition, with a first place finish for the second season in a row, leaving competitors in the dust by over 100 points with a score of 613.35.

Jill Eakright, diving coach, is now the second diving coach in Indiana history to have both the girls and boys state champion, for diving this year, in the same season. Noah Marble (11) took third in diving, the 200 medley relay team finished seventh and Cameron Frank (12), Chip Herendeen (12), Bryce Warner (12) and Noah Dalton (12) also placed among the top ten in their events. The boys accomplished an eighth place finish at their state meet at IUPUI Natatorium on Feb. 27.

WRESTLING

The wrestling team made a satisfying season for themselves and swept the floor in their postseason with a second place sectional finish at New Haven on Jan. 30 and third place regional title at Carroll on Feb. 6. Wyatt Clem (12), a team captain, was a first Team Academic All-State and sectional and regional champion. Blaigh Rushing (11) was also a first Team Academic All-State and a semi-state qualifier.

Drake Rhoades (12) grabbed eighth place at state the weekend of Feb. 19 at Conseco Fieldhouse, and he ended the season as the school's new record holder for most victories, 43, in a single season. Jack Franklin (12) also qualified and competed at state; though he was forgoed a state title, he is now the all-time most winning wrestler in the school's history with 123 victories.

As the yellow-brown, snow-sodden grass morphs into vibrant blooms and fragrant scents, the baseball and softball diamonds become buzzing practice fields, the tennis rackets swing into action, the track tar becomes warm and the putting green becomes fair ground. Meanwhile, the achievement of the 2015-16 winter season will not melt away with the sparse snow that did cover school grounds; these athletes are to now relax with the hum of spring chirpings, having solace that their seasons' stats will serve as legacy for future Spartans.

COURTESY OF GALL HERENDEEN

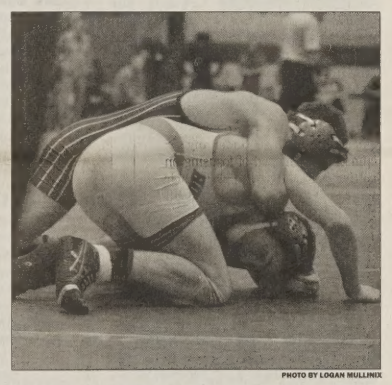


PHOTO BY LOGAN MULLINIX

Drake Rhodes (12) wrestles an opponent at sectionals.

SPRING PREVIEW

BY REAGAN MIKESELL
Photo Editor

BASEBALL

With a new head coach, the new season is can either be a flip, or a complete flop. Nick Byall, social studies teacher, has been the assistant coach for the team for the past 10 years. After the former head coach moved to Texas, Byall stepped up to the plate. The returning seniors look to have a promising season. Joey Deeter (12) and Alex Bradtmiller (12) both brought confidence to the team when the Spartans played the North Side Redskins on March 29.

SOFTBALL

After losing a large senior presence, the Lady Spartans were not exactly sure of how this upcoming season would go. Last season was successful, with the girls making their first Semi-State appearance after winning their first Regional title. Allie Barley (12) hit the first home run of the season in a pre-season game, even though it sadly did not count. Katie Lael (11), returning player, sees the potential for the girls to be successful this season like they were last season.

BOYS GOLF

This season, there are no freshmen, so they are an older team. Returning players, Ellis Yoder (11), Nick Kocks (12), Cameron Cook (11), Garrett Willis (10) and Eric Martin (12) have a lot to offer to the team this season. The boys placed seventh in state last season and Gabe Smith (11) believes they have the potential to do better this year than they did last.

GIRLS TENNIS

With their first match coming up after spring break, the girls have been working strenuously to be a top competitor this season. Lauren Ottinger (12) and Gaby Meissner (12) are key senior leaders along with Katie Stephens (12) and Vanessa Popescu (9). The girls' first match is Monday, Apr. 11.

GIRLS TRACK

A successful finish at the indoor track state meet leaves the girls with high hopes for the upcoming season. Evie Bultemeyer (11) , Grace Walther (12), Erica Lee (12) and Madison Distelrath (11) set a new record at the indoor track meet. The varsity team beat Warsaw on Mar. 29 by four points. The girls are working hard to improve their times and are preparing physically and mentally for the rest of the season.

BOYS TRACK

Jeff Livensparger, coach, says the season is going fantastic. The boys came in tenth at indoor state. Brayden Law (12) placed first in the 3200 meter race. Spencer Sholl (12), Sam Dvorak (11) and Alex Shepherd (12) finished third in their event. The team lost key seniors from last season, but brought in a talented group of newcomers. Seniors will now work with the underclassmen to bring a new confidence to the team.

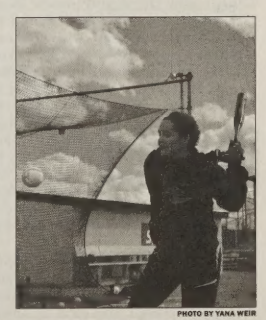


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

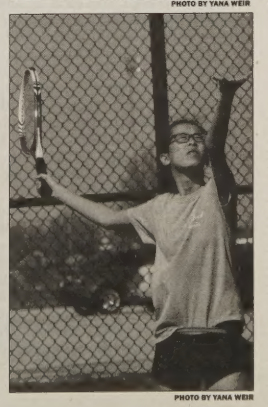


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

How athletes cope with illness during the season

Student-athletes typically put their sport before their health, mental and physical, and this can have long term negative effects on a person's body and athletic career.

While an average student will happily and gratefully take a sick day, an athlete will be much more concerned about the practice they are missing and the homework they will have to catch up on, which will waste more time that they could be conditioning.

The same goes for an injury. An athlete will try their hardest to ignore whatever pain they are experiencing for as long as possible in fear of it being something major and not being able to play or practice, even if just for a short period of time. However, as everyone knows, not taking care of an illness can lead to the illness getting worse, especially when the body is being pushed to do physical activity like sports practice or a game.

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor

While it is the students' decision on whether or not to come to practice or go to a game, there is pressure being put on them by their team and, most sometimes, their coach.

Coaches stress the importance of attending every event their team has, and this makes the players feel obligated to show up under any circumstances. Instead of focusing on getting better and tending to their illness, they will just worry about what they are missing and think about how they are letting their team down, because that is what they think they are doing when they skip a game or practice.

With injury, 'pushing through it' is even more difficult on a person's body. A strain, sprain or tear can be especially detrimental to a person's athletic career if not treated, because it can turn into something worse. While athletic trainers are present and ready to help with these problems, many players will refuse to address the problem in fear of losing playing time or a certain position, which, while does show dedication, can be harmful in the long run.

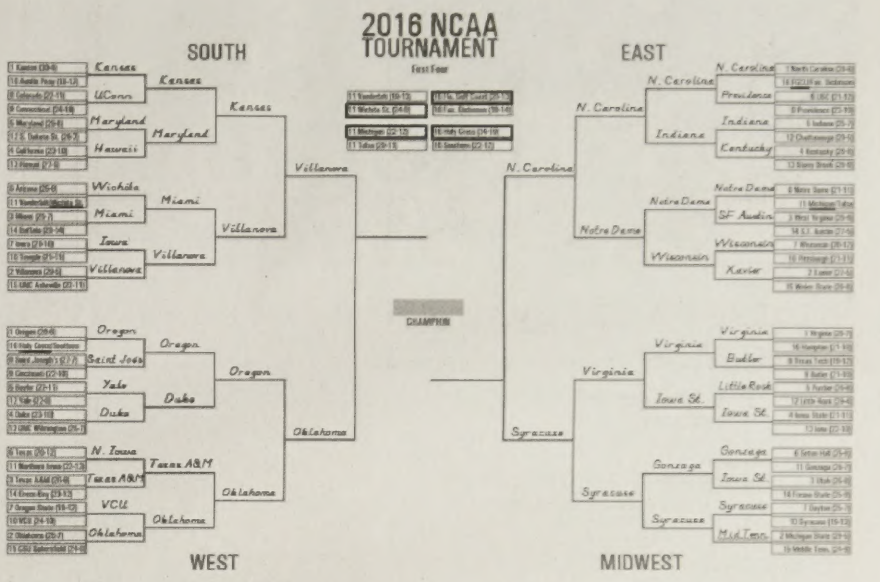
Sometimes even more destructive to an athlete's performance is mental health. In all aspects, mental health can affect a player's ability to carry out anything from simple tasks to complicated plays and drills. Most people, not just students, fail to prioritize their mental health as it does not physically disable them a majority of the time.

However, it can be even more destructive in the long run because most mental illnesses cannot be cured simply by pain medication or a trip or two to the doctor's. Many coaches fail to recognize the importance of good mental health and the effect that it can have on one's athletic and academic performance.

The most destructive of these could be substance abuse, eating disorders and depression, because of the physical effect they have on the body. With these effects taking place, not only can the athlete's performance visibly decrease, but so can their physical health. The strain of a sport along with the physical disability that a mental illness can cause has the potential to leave detrimental effects on the person's body for anywhere from a few months to the rest of their life.

Coaches have to be aware of their players physically and mental health at all times, for their team's sake and for the individual's sake. This aspect fails to be acknowledged by many coaches, parents and even the players themselves.

Students need to be responsible for their own health before they take their athletic career into consideration.



17 out of 13 million
brackets predicted all teams that are in the Sweet 16

97%
of brackets had Michigan State University advancing through the first round

41%
of brackets were eliminated after the first two games of the tournament

1
bracket was winless after 21 first round games

STATS FROM ESPN.COM

PHOTO BY FAIRANDADEY BOLA

Kendra Messer assists student Troy Rusk (10) in recovering from an injury in the athletic training office located by Door 7.

Spring brings National Athletic Training Month

Homestead's two athletic trainers make significant contributions to school athletics

BY EMMA LEININGER
Social Media Manager

National Athletic Training month is held every March in order to spread awareness of the contributions athletic trainers make to a community. Homestead's two athletic trainers Todd Jenkins and Kendra Messer provide extensive care and preventative measures for athletes in all sports.

The sport that sends the most athletes to the trainers really depends on the change in sports seasons.

"It can be a little bit hard, in the fall I would say football. It's a collision sport, but as far as chronic overuse right now it's girls track" Jenkins said.

While no one sport provides the most athletes to the trainers, they do differentiate in the reasons in which they send students down; one might be for trauma while the other could simply be for overemployment of certain muscles or ligaments.

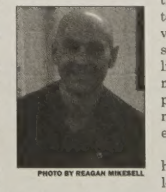


PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

However, the real goal of the athletic trainers is to prevent injuries from even occurring in the first place. The amount of time trainers spend on preventative measures with each team sport is dictated by the coaching staff.

"As far as preventative measures, the role of athletic trainers is always to try and be preventative," Messer said, "but it seems like some teams are more into learning preventative techniques than others."

Girls basketball has a large focus on learning preventative measures to ensure that no harm will come to them during the season when they need to be at their best. Baseball also continuously comes to the trainers for help with preventative measures.

"I understand from a coach's point of view that can take away from their practice time if we're working on preventative measures," Jenkins said, "but the flip side is if their kids are hurt all the time and in here, then they're not in practice either."

Preventing injuries is not always possible and while the most common injuries that the athletic trainers handle on an everyday basis are sprains and strains, Jenkins and Messer are licensed to deal with injuries of all extents.

"We saw a girls track athlete two or three years ago who fractured her femur, and those particular bones bleed a lot," Jenkins said.

PHOTO BY REAGAN MIKESELL

Despite this occurrence, these extreme injuries are rare and infrequent. Although these extensive injuries are uncommon, the presence of athletic trainers on the premises is extremely comforting to athletes and coaches alike.

"Having two licensed athletic trainers accessible to us ensures us that we're getting the highest level we can get," Anne Tiernon, track coach said.

Homestead's coaching staff is extremely thankful for the presence of athletic trainers and the ability access to them.

"We let the kids know they have access to them every day they're here until we leave no matter what time we leave they're here," Tiernon said.

The extent of education that a licensed athletic trainer must receive is extensive in order to guarantee the highest level of training when dealing with serious and minor injuries alike.

"We have to get a minimum of a bachelor's degree, and there is an exam you have to pass and you have to be certified through that. In Indiana we're licensed through the state, not just certified," Jenkins said.

The presence of athletic trainers is not only a comfort to athletes and coaches, but the significant contributions they make to a school system can be the dif-

HAHAHAH

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

WE'RE NOT LAUGHING AT YOU...

Students and several staff members share their best jokes in preparation for April Fools Day, an annually celebrated occasion commemorating laughter and pranking.

Why did Mickey Mouse go to space?
To go find pluto.
-Sebastian Gonzalez (11)

My dog used to chase people on a bike a lot. It got so bad I had to take his bike away.
-Shane Kerr (11)

What do you call a pile of kittens?
A meowtain.
-Scott Hill, English teacher

Did you hear about the guy that got his left arm and left leg cut off?
It's okay he is all right.
-Mike Sartiano (12)

Why is water very easy to understand?
Because it is very clear.
-Teryn Kline (11)

What do you call a pig that does karate?
A pork chop.
-Megan Grundtisch, Latin teacher

Want to hear a pizza joke?
Nah it's too cheesy.
What about a construction joke?
Oh never mind, I'm still working on that one."
-Bryan Smith (9)

What do you call a fake noodle?
An impasta.
-Brianna Gozun (9)

Why did the chicken cross the clothing store?
To get to the other size!
-Caroline Giese (10)

Why is is a bad idea to play poker in Africa?
There's too many cheetahs.
-Madeline Minobe (10)

What did relish say to mustard in a race?
'Ketchup.'
-Alexis Musleh (11)

What was Forrest Gump's email password?
1Forrest1
-Emma Poor (11)

What did one casket say to another sick casket?
'Is that you coffin?'
-Kolin Davis (11)

A cheese factory exploded the other day. All that was left was debris (the brie).
-Morgan Caroland (11)

PHOTOS BY REAGAN MIKESELL

PICTURED TOP: Kiefer Slater (11), Matt Anderson (11) and Drew Keszel (11). BOTTOM: Jonah Watson (12) and Rashaad Stukes (12).

What does a pirate say on his eightieth birthday?
'Aye, matey.'
-Holden Davenport (11)

So a dyslexic man walked into a bra.
-Erin Hall (12)

How do you make seven an even number?
You take off the S.
-Annabelle Lessner (10)

What did the chicken say to the cucumber?
Pizza.
-Luke Lael (10)

Why did Adele cross the road?
To say hello from the other side
-Peri Darmofal (10)

APRIL FOOLS!

YES, WE ARE.

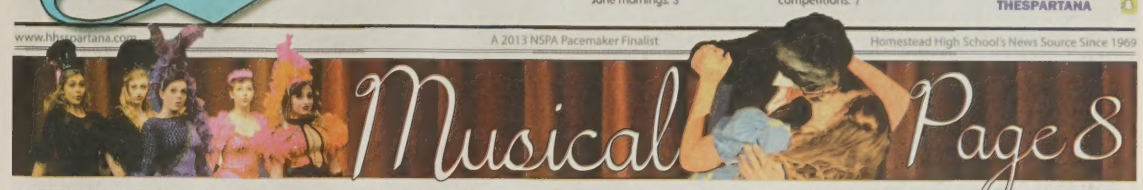
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

the SPARTANA
issue seven
volume forty five
may 9, 2016
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

7 INSIDE NOW

NEWS Steve Lake, former assistant principal, takes new role as transportation director. New posters around campus debut. 2
LIFE Students share their well-known relatives. Robotics team attends state competition. Teachers with weird talents light up stage. 4
FEATURE Musical enjoys success in director's second year with "Crazy for You" starring Avery Heatwole (12) and Kolin Davis (11). 8
OPINION Extensive testing creates burden for students as school year ends. Summer gym worth the early June mornings. 3
SPORTS Rugby and lacrosse seasons well under way. Boys' and girls' track teams near conference competitions. 7
ONLINE visit www.hhsspartana.com
@THESPARTANA
@HHS_SPARTANA
THESPARTANA

www.hhsspartana.com A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969



INTO THE

Rabbit Hole

Students prepare for student government's Wonderland-themed junior/senior prom on May 14

BY ADAM SWIATKOWSKI
Online Editor '15-16

Prom has become an iconic and classic way to end the school year, with the popular dance falling on the Saturday right after AP tests have concluded.

With the stress of standardized tests over, students take prom as a chance to relax and let loose after cramming for tests the night before (as we all do) and hastily filling out a third of their AP test prep books.

An alarmingly large amount of preparation goes into prom, with hundreds of precious dollars being spent on dresses, heels, hair and makeup for the ladies and tuxedos and shoes for the men, as well accompanying corsages and boutonnières and dinner reservations, adding up to just a tad more than a month's pay.

Finding a prom group also lends this process some difficulty, as prom drama always seems to find a way into determining with whom a group goes to dinner and prom.

"I think my senior year prom is going to be really fun because I'm going with a group of my good friends," Maddie Randolph (12) said. "It's luckily not been stressful for my group since we all decided to just go together and have a good time at our last prom and I really think we'll make it awesome."

This last prom for the senior class is on a lot of the students' minds as they prepare for their final prom dance. This is a last chance for many of them to dance the night away on such a classic occasion.

"I think my senior prom will be special because I'm spending it with the people who have made it to the end with me," Fatima Tapia (12) said. "This is our last ever high school prom and spending this time together is a special kind of bond that I will have with no other group. It's definitely kind of a last big event we have together."

Other students have a chance at two proms, with several having boyfriends or girlfriends attending other schools. Although most schools do have similar prom routines, some introduce something different from what Homestead students are accustomed to.

"My boyfriend goes to East Noble and we decided it'd be best to go to both to be able to be with both groups of friends," Maddie Distelrath (11) said. "I think the best part about East Noble's prom was their Grand March introducing all the couples, which if Homestead did would take hours. It was really neat to see all of the different couples and all of the different dresses!"

However, excitement is still strong for Homestead's prom, especially for those in younger grades who are attending their first prom dance.

"I'm super excited to go especially since a few of my closest friends are going to be in the group we are in," Mallory Walker (9) said. "But I'm kind of nervous and don't know what to expect. I'm most excited just to see what it's like and to dress up."

The actual prom is not necessarily the most exciting portion of the night, with dressing up and going out to eat, along with individual after-prom activities, generally being the highlights of the night.

"I am most excited for pictures and after prom for sure," Tapia said. "With pictures, you don't only get to show off your dress and the look you've been working on, but you also get to be around your best friends and the best part of that is that those moments are captured forever. I'm still looking forward to after prom because at the actual dance a lot of people are worried with judgement of how (they) dance so it's not always comfortable, but after prom you get to be with your group of friends and just have fun."

Another highlight of prom is the voting for prom king and queen, which is awarded to two juniors, one girl and one boy. This year's prom court is completed by six girls and six boys, many of whom were surprised to even be selected.

"It feels good to be nominated to prom court but I was definitely taken by surprise, completely," Mark Slovan (11) said. "When I first heard I made prom court, I didn't know what to think."

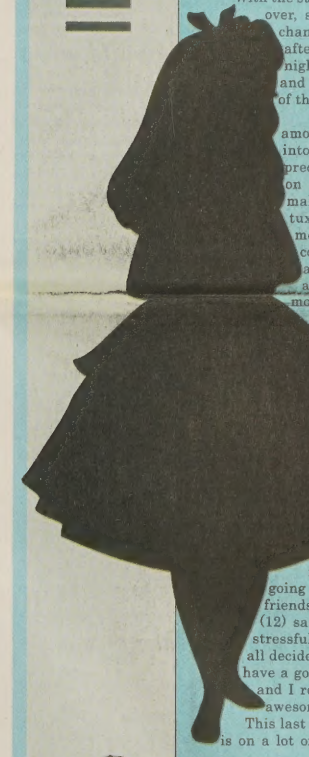
Other nominees such as Meredith Gray (11) had similar reactions, realizing that nomination is an achievement in itself.

"I think it's an honor to be on prom court. I was surprised I was nominated because of how many great people (my grade is) really full of," Gray said. "When I voted, it took me forever to pick only 6 girls and 6 guys, when really I could pick 60 that I think are worthy. It's very difficult to pick just 12 that represent Homestead."

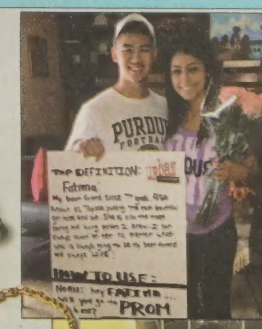
With the prom king and queen being decided and group planning already under way, the only thing left is to prepare dance moves. Studying the classic dances and individual dance moves is pretty central to getting crazy on the dance floor.

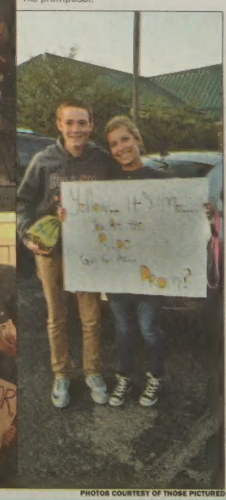
"If I could recommend a dance move for everyone at prom it would be 'hit them folks,'" Sam Dvorak (11), prom court nominee, said. "In an era full of dabbing and nay-naying, (I think it's) now more important than ever to branch and hit them folks before (other students) know what's coming."

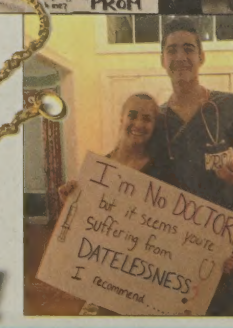
$919
avg. amount families planned to spend on prom '15
VISA, INC SURVEY



PROMPOSALS through the Looking Glass







CLOCKWISE: Noah Meeks (12) asks Fatima Tapia (12) to prom using an Urban Dictionary themed sign, emphasizing their close friendship. David Heiney (9) holds bananas to accompany the sign Sidney Connor (12) holds dedicated to fruit. Mark Slovan (11) saves Meredith Gray (11) from 'datelessness' with his promposal.

DATE: Saturday, May 14
TIME: 7:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m.
PLACE: Grand Wayne Center
ADDRESS: 120 W Jefferson Blvd
PARKING: GWC Parking Garage
TICKETS: $30

I'm late!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THOSE PICTURED

designed by arika akin

NEWS

SIGNS OF SCHOOL SPIRIT

PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Two new signs (above) add color and school spirit to the walls. Student Council has been working to spice up the formerly all white walls, adding creativity to the campus.

New signs put up around school promote school spirit and break up monotony of white walls

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Opinion Editor

Students roaming the halls have likely noticed the new attempts at beautifying the stark white halls that the school has been sporting for years. A new student council movement has begun modifying and adding to the scenery currently present.

"I think it is a good first step in the right direction in the beautification of Homestead's hallways," Erin Hall (12) said.

The new decorations and additional signs that have been erected this past school year, point out locations around the school, in the hopes of improving the school's perception from outside. At first this attempt to decorate does not seem like very much. However, the beautification project does not stop there. Additionally, new flowers have been planted in some of the courtyards, just as an attempt to better the appearance of the school in order to get away from the bland setting that has existed.

Anyone who has been to another school may have noticed that other schools have large decorations adorning their halls. For example, the Northrop Bruins have a massive bear statue and a stuffed bear within the school, something that may be welcome. Even a small change of scenery would be welcome, and a positive addition to the scenery is something the student government has been striving towards.

The new carpet and aforementioned signs are additions to a process that will be developing over the next few years, and should be expected to be seen through the last stretch of this year, but also extending through the coming years.

"I like that they're adding... some color to the walls so that they're not just white," Rachel Gripp (11) said. "I hope they add some different pictures, because right now they're both just Spartan heads. It would be cool to see something different."

As of now, feedback has been positive concerning the signs and decor that have donned the hallway. This bodes well for the other upcoming student council projects, which could present other things for the halls of the school. These other things will either be more small projects, or even something that is a little bit more of a radical change in appearance.

Graduating seniors interested in the
$500
2016 Student Government Scholarship can submit an essay covering the prompt:
"If you had $1,500 to positively improve HHS, what would you do or implement?"
to *abraman@sacs.k12.in.us*.
More information can be found on the HHS Counselor's Scholarship page.

BRIEFS

Commencement
Graduation will take place on June 4 at the Memorial Coliseum. The ceremony will begin promptly at 7 p.m. and will last approximately one hour and 15 minutes. Graduates are expected to arrive at 5:30 p.m. fully dressed in cap and gown for mandatory practice. Parking will cost $5 per car.

Last Day
Wednesday, May 25 will be students' last day of the semester. Students will be released at 11:11 a.m.

Teacher of the Year
Lindsay Wolf, chairperson of the special education department, was named the school's teacher of the year for the 2015-16 school year.

Awards Night
Academic Awards and Scholarship Recognition Ceremonies will take place on May 18. Students in grades 9, 10 and 11 will be recognized at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium, while the senior ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Assistant principal promoted to transportation director

Steve Lake accepts newly-vacant position as district-level administrator overseeing all schools

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Over spring break, Steve Lake, former assistant principal, was promoted to Transportation Director of the school district. Lake has been interested in the position for several months, but the opportunity had only recently arisen.

At the start of the school year, Dave Rerrick, transportation director at the time, had long known Lake and his talents. He discussed with Dr. Phil Downs, superintendent, and expressed that Lake would be great for the job.

"At the time, I had to turn the position down," Lake said. "I just had too much going on right then, what with the senior experience stuff and my tunnel excursion, the time didn't fit for me."

The job was instead given to Jerry Wood, Rerrick's assistant, who held the position from the start of the school year until over spring break, when he had some complications and had to leave the job. Lake stepped up to fill the position because he finally felt the time was right.

"Downs and the administration wanted someone who knew the district and had been around for a while, and since I've never left the school, I was probably the best person for the job," Lake said.

The main reason for Lake's interest in being transportation director was the challenges that he would have to face.

"I like challenges, which is why I don't stay in the same job for too long," Lake said. "I started out as a teacher, then moved up to assistant principal, and now I'm transportation director. Hopefully my next challenge involves relaxing on a beach somewhere."

Lake must adjust to a lot of responsibilities with the job, including 12-hour days.

"I have to get up when the first bus leaves at 5 a.m., and I have to stay until the last bus returns at 5 p.m.," Lake said. "During the winter, when I get there, I'll probably add an hour on both ends to make sure that the weather is nice enough to go to school. Plus, I have to manage the 20 or so buses that run on the weekends for all the extra-curriculars."

Although Lake likes his new office in the transportation building, as well as the secretaries helping to keep him sane, he misses being around students at the high school.

"I just miss going into the cafeteria and poking fun at all the kids," Lake said. "I like embarrassing them because we all forget how easy it is to make me look like an idiot."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE LAKE

Lake ('81, left) pictured with his sons Kyle ('12, middle) and Travis ('15, right) in their respective letterman jackets. All three attended Homestead.

designed by matthew killham

OPINION

JOGGING IN JUNE

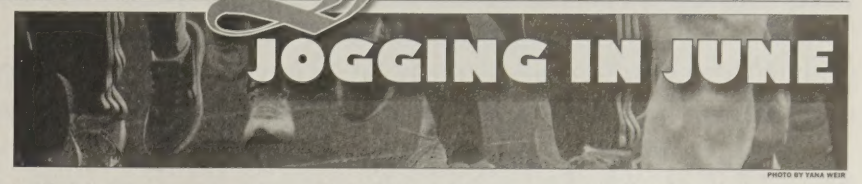


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Summer gym provides an alternative for those not wishing to take gym

BY EMMA LEININGER
Social Media Manager

For students who do not wish to endure the sweat stained clothes and inconvenient switch into gym uniforms during the school year, summer gym provides an extremely beneficial substitute. While students have a commitment of attending the course for four hours each day for about three weeks in June, summer gym allows students to experience different activities than provided by a regular gym course.

In summer gym, students are still educated on the basics such as basketball, football and volleyball. However, substitutes for a standard day in gym include canoeing, bowling and biking. This creates a more exciting environment for students who are concerned about giving up a portion of their summer.

Similarly, while in a normal everyday gym class a student may be mixed in with students they have never met before, summer gym provides a way for students to take a course with their friends and actually enjoy the activities they are participating in. While summer gym does consist of separate classes, it is rare that the classes are divided and due to this, a group of friends may partake in a majority of the events together.

Another benefit of summer gym is the decreased amount of miles a student must run in comparison to that of a gym class taken during the school year. While students participating in summer gym must only run one less mile, the mile is probably the most dreaded and least liked event that a student must complete. Therefore, the one less that must be run during summer gym is an extreme bonus.

Similarly, instead of doing strenuous activities such as Friday fitness runs, students in summer gym go on bike rides, and even hikes which are not only enjoyable to participate in, but also help make the time pass a little bit faster for the student who is wary of the four hour time slot.

Another great plus of summer gym is the limited restriction on the dress code. While during the school year you must wear a gym shirt, the only requirement in summer gym is that you must wear a blue, yellow, gray or white shirt.

Participating in summer gym may feel as though you are compromising part of your well-deserved summer in order to simply complete a course that can be taken during the school year; however, being released prior to midday still gives you more than half the day to go to the pool and enjoy time with your friends.

Summer gym provides the student with an enjoyable environment to complete a not so enjoyable class. The benefits of the course outweigh the possible negatives and should seriously be considered by all students as an alternative to a traditional gym course.

While online gym is always an option, the course does not give you the hands on experience and the paper portion, such as taking tests, is much more strenuous and simply just not as fun. Also, while you must attend the summer gym class every day, a student may complete online gym at their own pace, leading to procrastination and an elongated time period which can be stressful and time consuming.

Finding an enriching job stressful but ultimately worth it

KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor '15-16

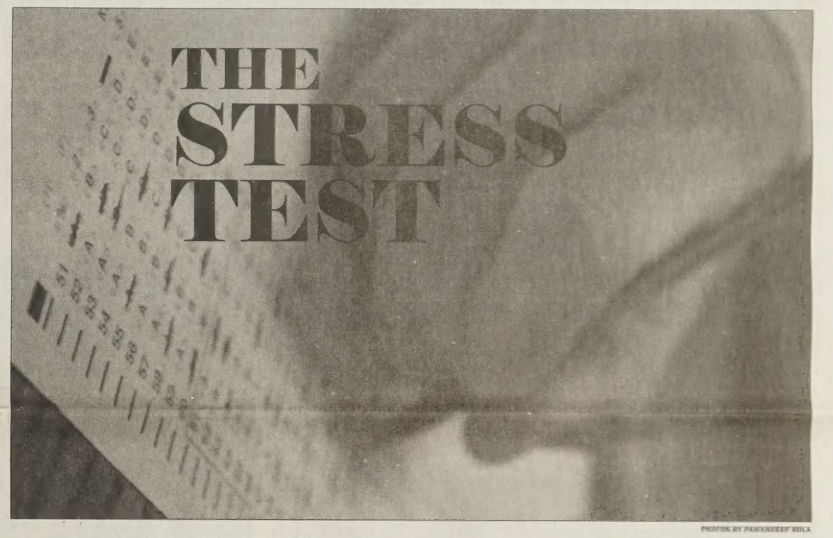
Among the teenage desperation for an abundant social life, acceptance and love, high school students are desperate for money. Money equals a bulk purchase of Sailor Moon socks, which equals cool! Of course, you need a job to obtain the money to buy Sailor Moon socks in bulk on eBay. Though a job for high schoolers is often synonymous to burger grease and pain, students should find a job they are passionate about, even though it is a part-time position.

Now, why should a teenager care about a job for reasons other than money? Because of overall happiness and satisfaction. I worry students with low self-esteem do not care where they work, even though they are never happy working. Before asking "would you like fries with that?", ask yourself, "Would I be happy at work here?" I say this because you matter! You really do.

A job can change your life fast; you will be at work for a good portion of your week. You will miss out on activities; but if you have to skip a night out with friends to work, it should at least be in an occupation and environment that suits you. A job shouldn't make you feel like you, for a lack of a better word, stink.

I will give an example from my own experience. I began work at a video store (I know, a video store in 2016?). I do like movies, so I thought I would like the job. LIKE the job. I was not thrilled or had crossed fingers in hopes I would get hired. I just wanted money, and was not passionate about what I was doing. Not only was I severely apathetic about the job before I even began working there, but I was also uninformed. I did no research on the company or even all the store sold, and was shocked by the amount of adult movies which were rented out through the store, which made me personally uncomfortable every day. I could not erase the thought on how badly I wanted to quit, even though I was just hired the week before. Make sure to research and ask around about the job before even asking for an application.

The key is, find a job that does not take away from you, but rather add to your personal growth. The first place to look for a job is your hobbies and interests; not random ad spots in the newspaper. If you like dogs, make a list of places where the work involves dogs and other entails of the position, and then go to the business for an application! If you are a student on the hunt for a part-time summer job, begin to look now before it is too late.

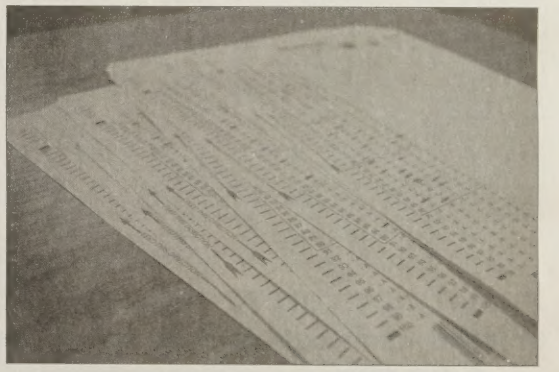


PHOTOS BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

THE STRESS TEST

Vigorous testing proves a formidable opponent to over-scheduled students

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Opinion Editor



The infamous Scantron, a popular and dreaded component of fill-in-the-bubble testing.

All students in high school know the lovely feeling of being overwhelmed by tests on tests on tests.

Whether it is the fourth quarter slew of AP exams, SAT's, ACT's and preparation for finals, or just plain old quizzes and tests, the stress of test taking is very real for many.

While many disagree with over-testing, or the testing process in general, for now it is a necessary evil, and students will have to find some way to cope with the stress and testing schedule.

The most important thing to remember through school is time management and scheduling.

> "Rather than cramming the night before every single test in your academic carrer, try closing out of Snapchat and Instagram every once in a while."

Rather than cramming the night before every single test in your academic career, try closing out of Snapchat and Instagram every once in a while.

Don't worry, you can check your friends' stories and get likes after you study. Really, just a few hours of studying ahead of time can make all the difference in not only grades, but the amount of hair that gets torn out in the week before that big Trig test.

Besides actually being prepared for things in school-a crazy idea, I know-actually getting some sleep on school nights can make all the difference the next morning. Season 2 of The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt can wait until after finals week, as tempting as it is.

Teachers are right when they suggest getting enough sleep the night prior to a test, and this is a good rule of thumb for the rest of high school existence too. Waking up in good time before school is never a bad idea either. The first three periods of the day are much easier to get through when you can actually think straight instead of being too tired to see the board.

Not to mention that D lunch will seem like it is forever and a day away if you do not eat breakfast, even though every high school student does this for the majority of the time that they are in high school.

The point is that the trite and seemingly useless information that has been said a million times before is actually secretly helpful, which might explain why it has been said so many times before.

The last thing to remember that might help in high school is to try not to freak out too terribly much when failure happens.

Yes, failure will most certainly crop up from time to time, but that does not mean that a person is a failure. Failure is part of life, and school would not be school without the occasional mess up on a test, or forgetting to turn that English paper the day that it was due despite the fact that it has been done for weeks.

People make mistakes, and trying to learn how to deal with them and minimize them is a massive part of school and growing up as a whole.

To be blunt, the only way to survive the intense workload of tests and more tests is to just budget time more in advance than the night before, and to be prepared, even though it probably will not happen much of the time.

2015-2016 Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Kylie Poling

Executive Editor
Tessa Virgilio

Copy Editor
Ethan Zweig

Photo Editor
Reagan Mikesell

Online Editor
Adam Swiatkowski

News Editor
Michal Spanjer

Opinion Editor
Katie Maher

Life Editor
Awbrei Vachon

Sports Editor
Kaylee Yanovich

Social Media Manager
Emma Leininger

Designer
Melana Rossi

Adviser
Terri Nowak

Photographers
Pawandeep Bola
Yana Weir

Writers
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members supports the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

designed by arika akin

NEWS

SIGNS OF SCHOOL SPIRIT

PHOTO BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Two new signs (above) add color and school spirit to the walls. Student Council has been working to spice up the formerly all white walls, adding creativity to the campus.

New signs put up around school promote school spirit and break up monotony of white walls

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Opinion Editor

Students roaming the halls have likely noticed the new attempts at beautifying the stark white halls that the school has been sporting for years. A new student council movement has begun modifying and adding to the scenery currently present.

"I think it is a good first step in the right direction in the beautification of Homestead's hallways," Erin Hall (12) said.

The new decorations and additional signs that have been erected this past school year, point out locations around the school, in the hopes of improving the school's perception from outside. At first this attempt to decorate does not seem like very much. However, the beautification project does not stop there. Additionally, new flowers have been planted in some of the courtyards, just as an attempt to better the appearance of the school in order to get away from the bland setting that has existed.

Anyone who has been to another school may have noticed that other schools have large decorations adorning their halls. For example, the Northrop Bruins have a massive bear statue and a stuffed bear within the school, something that may be welcome. Even a small change of scenery would be welcome, and a positive addition to the scenery is something the student government has been striving towards.

The new carpet and aforementioned signs are additions to a process that will be developing over the next few years, and should be expected to be seen through the last stretch of this year, but also extending through the coming years.

"I like that they're adding... some color to the walls so that they're not just white," Rachel Gripp (11) said. "I hope they add some different pictures, because right now they're both just Spartan heads. It would be cool to see something different."

As of now, feedback has been positive concerning the signs and decor that have donned the hallway. This bodes well for the other upcoming student council projects, which could present other things for the halls of the school. These other things will either be more small projects, or even something that is a little bit more of a radical change in appearance.

Graduating seniors interested in the

$500

2016 Student Government Scholarship can submit an essay covering the prompt:

"If you had $1,500 to positively improve HHS, what would you do or implement?"

to *abraman@sacs.k12.in.us*.

More information can be found on the HHS Counselor's Scholarship page.

BRIEFS

Commencement
Graduation will take place on June 4 at the Memorial Coliseum. The ceremony will begin promptly at 7 p.m. and will last approximately one hour and 15 minutes. Graduates are expected to arrive at 5:30 p.m. fully dressed in cap and gown for mandatory practice. Parking will cost $5 per car.

Last Day
Wednesday, May 25 will be students' last day of the semester. Students will be released at 11:11 a.m.

Teacher of the Year
Lindsay Wolf, chairperson of the special education department, was named the school's teacher of the year for the 2015-16 school year.

Awards Night
Academic Awards and Scholarship Recognition Ceremonies will take place on May 18. Students in grades 9, 10 and 11 will be recognized at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium, while the senior ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Assistant principal promoted to transportation director

Steve Lake accepts newly-vacant position as district-level administrator overseeing all schools

BY ETHAN ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Over spring break, Steve Lake, former assistant principal, was promoted to Transportation Director of the school district. Lake has been interested in the position for several months, but the opportunity had only recently arisen.

At the start of the school year, Dave Rerrick, transportation director at the time, had long known Lake and his talents. He discussed with Dr. Phil Downs, superintendent, and expressed that Lake would be great for the job.

"At the time, I had to turn the position down," Lake said. "I just had too much going on right then, what with the senior experience stuff and my tunnel excursion, the time didn't fit for me."

The job was instead given to Jerry Wood, Rerrick's assistant, who held the position from the start of the school year until over spring break, when he had some complications and had to leave the job. Lake stepped up to fill the position because he finally felt the time was right.

"Downs and the administration wanted someone who knew the district and had been around for a while, and since I've never left the school, I was probably the best person for the job," Lake said.

The main reason for Lake's interest in being transportation director was the challenges that he would have to face.

"I like challenges, which is why I don't stay in the same job for too long," Lake said. "I started out as a teacher, then moved up to assistant principal, and now I'm transportation director. Hopefully my next challenge involves relaxing on a beach somewhere."

Lake must adjust to a lot of responsibilities with the job, including 12-hour days.

"I have to get up when the first bus leaves at 5 a.m., and I have to stay until the last bus returns at 5 p.m.," Lake said. "During the winter, when I get there, I'll probably add an hour on both ends to make sure that the weather is nice enough to go to school. Plus, I have to manage the 20 or so buses that run on the weekends for all the extra-curriculars."

Although Lake likes his new office in the transportation building, as well as the secretaries helping to keep him sane, he misses being around students at the high school.

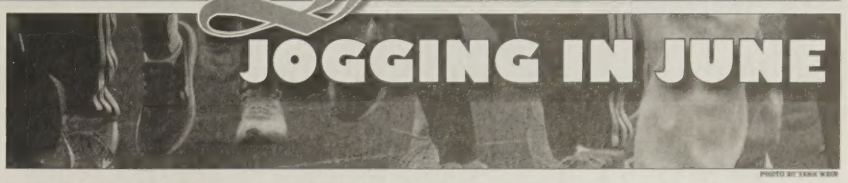
"I just miss going into the cafeteria and poking fun at all the kids," Lake said. "I like embarrassing them because we all forget how easy it is to make me look like an idiot."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE LAKE

Lake ('81, left) pictured with his sons Kyle ('12, middle) and Travis ('15, right) in their respective letterman jackets. All three attended Homestead.

designed by matthew killham

OPINION



JOGGING IN JUNE

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Summer gym provides an alternative for those not wishing to take gym

BY EMMA LEININGER
Social Media Manager

For students who do not wish to endure the sweat stained clothes and inconvenient switch into gym uniforms during the school year, summer gym provides an extremely beneficial substitute. While students have a commitment of attending the course for four hours each day for about three weeks in June, summer gym allows students to experience different activities than provided by a regular gym course.

In summer gym, students are still educated on the basics such as basketball, football and volleyball. However, substitutes for a standard day in gym include canoeing, bowling and biking. This creates a more exciting environment for students who are concerned about giving up a portion of their summer.

Similarly, while in a normal everyday gym class a student may be mixed in with students they have never met before, summer gym provides a way for students to take a course with their friends and actually enjoy the activities they are participating in. While summer gym does consist of separate classes, it is rare that the classes are divided and due to this, a group of friends may partake in a majority of the events together.

Another benefit of summer gym is the decreased amount of miles a student must run in comparison to that of a gym class taken during the school year. While students participating in summer gym must only run one less mile, the mile is probably the most dreaded and least liked event that a student must complete. Therefore, the one less that must be run during summer gym is an extreme bonus.

Similarly, instead of doing strenuous activities such as Friday fitness runs, students in summer gym go on bike rides, and even hikes which are not only enjoyable to participate in, but also help make the time pass a little bit faster for the student who is wary of the four hour time slot.

Another great plus of summer gym is the limited restriction on the dress code. While during the school year you must wear a gym shirt, the only requirement in summer gym is that you must wear a blue, yellow, gray or white shirt.

Participating in summer gym may feel as though you are compromising part of your well-deserved summer in order to simply complete a course that can be taken during the school year; however, being released prior to midday still gives you more than half the day to go to the pool and enjoy time with your friends.

Summer gym provides the student with an enjoyable environment to complete a not so enjoyable class. The benefits of the course outweigh the possible negatives and should seriously be considered by all students as an alternative to a traditional gym course.

While online gym is always an option, the course does not give you the hands on experience and the paper portion, such as taking tests, is much more strenuous and simply just not as fun. Also, while you must attend the summer gym class every day, a student may complete online gym at their own pace, leading to procrastination and an elongated time period which can be stressful and time consuming.

Finding an enriching job stressful but ultimately worth it

Among the teenage desperation for an abundant social life, acceptance and love, high school students are desperate for money. Money equals a bulk purchase of Sailor Moon socks, which equals cool! Of course, you need a job to obtain the money to buy Sailor Moon socks in bulk on eBay. Though a job for high schoolers is often synonymous to burger grease and pain, students should find a job they are passionate about, even though it is a part-time position.

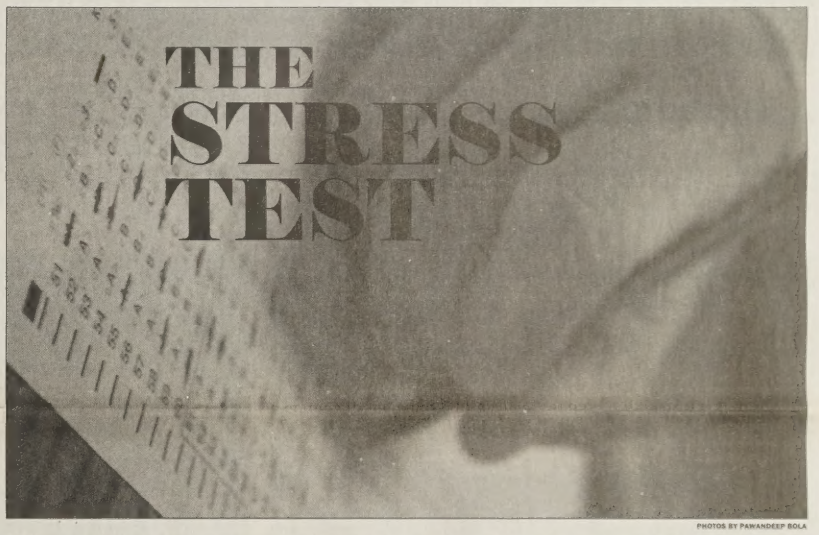
Now, why should a teenager care about a job for reasons other than money? Because of overall happiness and satisfaction. I worry students with low self-esteem do not care where they work, even though they are never happy working. Before asking "would you like fries with that?", ask yourself, "Would I be happy at work here?" I say this because you matter! You really do.

A job can change your life fast; you will be at work for a good portion of your week. You will miss out on activities; but if you have to skip a night out with friends to work, it should at least be in an occupation and environment that suits you. A job shouldn't make you feel like you, for a lack of a better word, stink.

KATIE MAHER
Opinion Editor '15-16

I will give an example from my own experience. I began work at a video store (I know, a video store in 2016?). I do like movies, so I thought I would like the job. LIKE the job. I was not thrilled or had crossed fingers in hopes I would get hired. I just wanted money, and was not passionate about what I was doing. Not only was I severely apathetic about the job before I even began working there, but I was also uninformed. I did no research on the company or even all the store sold, and was shocked by the amount of adult movies which were rented out through the store, which made me personally uncomfortable every day. I could not erase the thought on how badly I wanted to quit, even though I was just hired the week before. Make sure to research and ask around about the job before even asking for an application.

The key is, find a job that does not take away from you, but rather add to your personal growth. The first place to look for a job is your hobbies and interests; not random ad spots in the newspaper. If you like dogs, make a list of places where the work involves dogs and other entails of the position, and then go to the business for an application! If you are a student on the hunt for a part-time summer job, begin to look now before it is too late.



THE STRESS TEST

PHOTOS BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Vigorous testing proves a formidable opponent to over-scheduled students

BY MATTHEW KILLHAM
Opinion Editor

All students in high school know the lovely feeling of being overwhelmed by tests on tests on tests.

Whether it is the fourth quarter slew of AP exams, SAT's, ACT's and preparation for finals, or just plain old quizzes and tests, the stress of test taking is very real for many.

While many disagree with over-testing, or the testing process in general, for now it is a necessary evil, and students will have to find some way to cope with the stress and testing schedule.

The most important thing to remember through school is time management and scheduling.

> "Rather than cramming the night before every single test in your academic carrer, try closing out of Snapchat and Instagram every once in a while."

Rather than cramming the night before every single test in your academic career, try closing out of Snapchat and Instagram every once in a while.

Don't worry, you can check your friends' stories and get likes after you study. Really, just a few hours of studying ahead of time can make all the difference in not only grades, but the amount of hair that gets torn out in the week before that big Trig test.

Besides actually being prepared for things in school-a crazy idea, I know-actually getting some sleep on school nights can make all the difference the next morning. Season 2 of The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt can wait until after finals week, as tempting as it is.

Teachers are right when they suggest getting enough sleep the night prior to a test, and this is a good rule of thumb for the rest of high school existence too. Waking up in good time before school is never a bad idea either. The first three periods of the day are much easier to get through when you can actually think straight instead of being too tired to see the board.

Not to mention that D lunch will seem like it is forever and a day away if you do not eat breakfast, even though every high school student does this for the majority of the time that they are in high school.

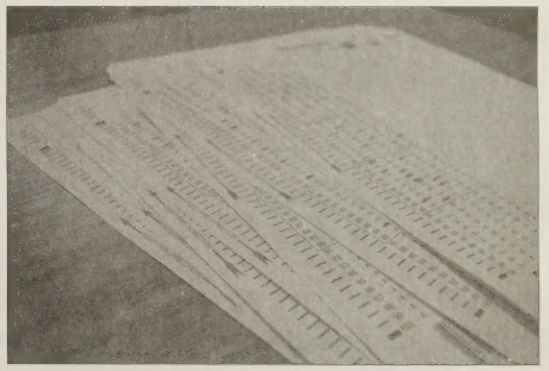
The point is that the trite and seemingly useless information that has been said a million times before is actually secretly helpful, which might explain why it has been said so many times before.

The last thing to remember that might help in high school is to try not to freak out too terribly much when failure happens.

Yes, failure will most certainly crop up from time to time, but that does not mean that a person is a failure. Failure is part of life, and school would not be school without the occasional mess up on a test, or forgetting to turn that English paper the day that it was due despite the fact that it has been done for weeks.

People make mistakes, and trying to learn how to deal with them and minimize them is a massive part of school and growing up as a whole.

To be blunt, the only way to survive the intense workload of tests and more tests is to just budget time more in advance than the night before, and to be prepared, even though it probably will not happen much of the time.



The infamous Scantron, a popular and dreaded component of fill-in-the-bubble testing.

2015-2016 Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Kylie Poling

Executive Editor
Tessa Virgilio

Copy Editor
Ethan Zweig

Photo Editor
Reagan Mikesell

Online Editor
Adam Swiatkowski

News Editor
Michal Spanjer

Opinion Editor
Katie Maher

Life Editor
Awbrei Vachon

Sports Editor
Kaylee Yanovich

Social Media Manager
Emma Leininger

Designer
Melana Rossi

Adviser
Terri Nowak

Photographers
Pawandeep Bola
Yana Weir

Writers
Arika Akin
Alexis Jordan
Matthew Killham
Mary Landrigan
Emma Pearl

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Spartana is a monthly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members supports the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day at defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed. Southwest Allen County School corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas and issues in their high school, community, nation and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com.

designed by melana rossi

LIFE

Students share stories about very famous relatives

Musician Jordan Witzigreuter, athletes Bonzi Wells and Trent Green have connections to Spartan students

BY MICHAL SPANJER
Executive Editor

MADISON GENTRY (10)

Sister's Boyfriend: Jordan Witzigreuter (The Ready Set)

Spartana: What is Jordan's role in the band?

Gentry: He is the main singer and he also plays drums.

Spartana: How often do you go to his concerts?

Gentry: He and my sister live in LA (now), so not so much anymore, but when they used to live in Fort Wayne, we used to go pretty often. They moved about four years ago.

Spartana: Are you interested in music as well?

Gentry: I do not play any instruments, but I do like his music a lot. It's pretty upbeat and always fun to listen to, especially his new album. That just came out in February, I believe.

Spartana: How often do you mention Jordan to your peers?

Gentry: Not too much. I don't want it to seem like I'm bragging or anything, so I try not to talk about it too much. If they ask, of course I'll talk about it.

Spartana: Have you ever gotten to do anything or meet anyone because of him?

Gentry: Well, I got to go to Warped Tour two years ago and I got to stand on the stage behind the speakers. I did that a couple times but I haven't met anyone famous. I know my sister has, though. She's met Miley Cyrus' brother because he's on tour with Jordan and Debby Ryan, from Disney channel--she met her at one of the parties that Jordan's band was at.

Spartana: Do you have a favorite memory with your sister and Jordan?

Gentry: They've been dating for 11 years, actually, so he's been there ever since I can remember and we would go to the Whispering Meadows playground a lot and I remember that because it was a pretty fun memory with Jordan and Katelyn.

GAWEN WELLS (12)

Dad: Bonzi Wells (NBA)

Spartana: What was his position on the team?

Wells: He played small forward and shooting guard.

Spartana: How often did you get to go to his games?

Wells: I went a lot, actually. He played for four teams: the Sacramento Kings, the (Portland) Trail Blazers, the (Houston) Rockets and the (Memphis) Grizzlies, and I pretty much went to most of his games that were close to me when I was younger. (He stopped playing) around my eighth grade year.

Spartana: Are you also interested in basketball or any sport?

Wells: Yeah, I play baseball and football, but I used to play basketball, so I used to work on basketball with him.

Spartana: How often do mention your dad to your peers?

Wells: I don't really like bringing him up that much, but, if I do bring him up, I just talk about him in general, not about his position. Usually, the first day of school people will bring it up and ask me about my dad, but that was more freshman year and sophomore year because people were just wondering.

Spartana: Were you able to meet other players or do anything special because of your connection to him?

Wells: I met Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant and Rasheed Wallace, (who is) actually my uncle. He played for the Detroit Pistons. And then Jermaine O'Neal is a really good friend of my dad's, so we go to his house a lot.

Spartana: What do you consider your favorite memory with your dad?

Wells: Just spending time with him, really. At a young age, he was always traveling so he made time to spend with me when he could, but other than that, when he was on the road, it was kind of hard to see him.

BEN SKOWRONEK (12)

Uncle: Trent Green (NFL)

Spartana: What's was your uncle's position?

Skowronek: He played quarterback.

Spartana: Did you ever go to his games?

Skowronek: Yeah, growing up, I went to a lot of his games. I went to some in Kansas City. Then I went to his games in the Midwest: Cleveland, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, places like that we would drive to and then we would fly out to Kansas City a couple times each year to see the games. They were a lot of fun.

Spartana: Do you share an interest in sports?

Skowronek: Yeah, I'm interested in football as well. That's what I play (on the school's team). I play wide receiver. Growing up, being around him kind of inspired me a little bit. Always being around the NFL, I'd always dream as a kid that I'd be part of that.

Spartana: Do you mention your uncle a lot to your peers?

Skowronek: I don't know, it doesn't really come up a lot but when people ask, I'm fine with it and I'm able to share some experiences with some other people. Every now and then it comes up but not very often.

Spartana: What kinds of activities did you get to take part in because of your uncle? Did you ever get to meet celebrities through your uncle?

Skowronek: Yeah, I was able to go to the practices over the years and meet all the players, meet all the coaches. So, I know a couple of the players through my uncle, which is really cool. And just the experiences of going into the locker room after games and things like that are really cool.

Spartana: What do you consider to be your favorite memory with your uncle?

Skowronek: Probably going to the games and hanging out with the players. Those are good memories. And hanging out with my family, playing pickup games with my cousins. It's memories like that I'll never forget.

Robotics places 12th at state

Team begins work to finance next season's projects

BY ARIKA AKIN
News Editor

The Spartan Olympic Robotics team competed at a state-level For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) competition in Kokomo, Ind. on Apr. 16. The team placed 12th out of 31 robotics teams. They are therefore unable to go onto World Championships in St. Louis, as to qualify they would have had to place ninth. Even though the team was unable to go on to the championship, the members of the team are excited about placing the highest they ever have at the Indiana competition.

"The nice thing was that the kids dealt with it well," Robert Steverson, advisor and science teacher, said. "They really took pride in the fact that they had a really good, respectable season; we're standing toe to toe in our third year with teams that have been doing this for years."

This season has been a successful one for the team overall, as they won the General Motors Industrial Design Award. This award, given to teams who have created an efficient and effective machine, is an honor to the team, who has been competing for three years.

"We won (the award) for our electrical panels, which were made so they can slide in and out really easily," Aryn Thomas (12) said "It was just a huge honor to win the award because it's the main award that we've won that isn't for being a finalist or for being a really good rookie team."

At competitions, team members work to increase Spartan spirit, find sponsors for the team or work with the actual competition machine.Thomas, scouting leader, spends her time at the competitions strategizing.

"I was managing people scouting in the stands, recording all of their information ... watching the other teams and figuring out what they do so if we end up being an alliance captain or first pick we know who to chose to complement our robot" Thomas said.

Thomas works with Dakota Alverson (12), team captain and drive coach, to find strengths and weaknesses of the other teams.

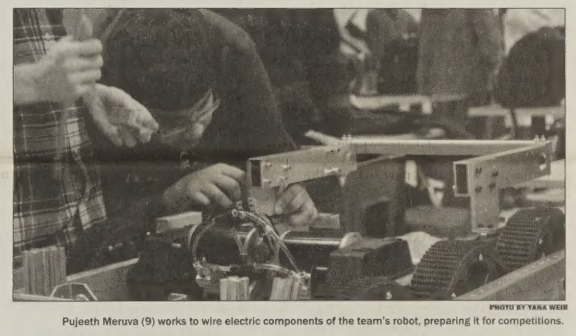


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Pujeeth Meruva (9) works to wire electric components of the team's robot, preparing it for competitions.

"I'm in charge of the four-person drive team and I make up the strategy. I'm also on the electrical subteam so whenever repairs to the robot needed to be made I made them," Alverson said.

Other team members, such as Angel Pallares (12), spend their time at the competitions cheering on their team.

"Cheering for my team, even cheering for other teams is my favorite part," Pallares said. "Just watching the other teams and cheering is really exciting to me."

Any Spartan interested in science, business, art or technology can join the robotics team to compete in the international FIRST competition next season.

"We're really good at getting the typical people who want to work on the robot, but we're still fighting to get people to understand that the robotics team isn't all about the robot-- they're really trying to run a robotics company," Steverson said.

Performers brew up talent at the night of NHS Coffeehouse

Students came out and supported fellow classmates in this year's performances

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Co-Online Editor

One of the many traditions here at the school is Fine Arts Week, where the school comes together to take part in honoring the work many students create for their art classes or on their own. The National Honor Society (NHS) puts together a coffeehouse for people to come out and see the art in the gallery and provides an opportunity for students to display their voice in poetry or music. The coffeehouse not only allowed for others to appreciate Fine Arts Week, but helped the NHS raise money by selling coffee and treats at low prices.

Anyone was welcome to sign up and perform the night of the coffeehouse, and each student filled a 10 minute time between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. This year there were 14 students who prepared songs or poetry to perform in front of the parents and students who came. The performers provided the audience with a variety of musical styles and unique poems.

Macy Plesko (10), who has been playing music for six years, played the piano and performed a cover of "Skinny Love" before rapping to "Ice Ice Baby" and improvising a song to read as poetry. She expressed her thoughts on the other performers of the night and believed everyone was very well prepared and performed well.

"I liked the poetry, it was thought provoking," Plesko said.

She put on not only a humorous show but displayed the variety of talents she has. Plesko has already expressed her interest in performing again next year.

"I think I'll be more prepared next year and do actual music but I definitely want to try and do it again," Plesko said.

Jacob McDonald (11) was another one of the students who performed this year. He has always been interested in the way music can relate to others and it was not until the start of his freshman year when he began teaching himself to play guitar. Though he had a few lessons prior, the majority of his skills came from his own teachings.

The variety of bands he listens to has always been a big influence on his music and sparked his passion for it. This was his first time performing at the coffeehouse where he sang three original songs.

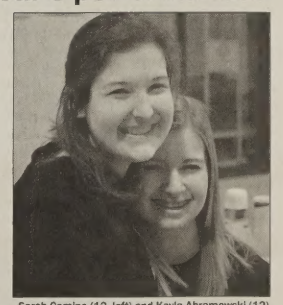
"I feel like music can make something beautiful out of any situation, even in the saddest situations," McDonald said.

In addition to McDonald, Keegan Ferrell (11) performed original songs and sang covers of others.

"I love the feeling of just being up on stage and getting to express myself," Ferrell said.

Arts Week was a big success as many students stopped in for the coffeehouse. Whether it was roaming the art gallery, watching students perform music and poetry or just stopping by the coffee bar, the students and parents enjoyed their night and gave their appreciation of the students' talents in the arts.

PHOTOS BY KATIE MAHER



Sarah Camino (12, left) and Kayla Abramowski (12) enjoy the coffehouse.

Sarah Auger (11), Julia Dombrowski (11), Emina Halimanovic (11), Medina Halimanovic (11), Ashley Hennessey (11) and Claire Costello (11) sit around listening to the musicians playing live.

Student jobs: A behind-the-scenes look at working at the zoo pony rides

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor '15-16

There are two kinds of high schoolers: the ones who try to join the workforce as soon as they are eligible and the ones who put it off for as long as they possibly can. I per say fall into the latter category.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my unemployment throughout the last three years of high school, but out of necessity and desire, that chapter of my life has come to a close and ahead of me another one has busted right open. As a senior in high school, I am getting quite a late start at job searching, but better late than never, right?

Maybe it's just me, but finding a job is hard.

You kind of have to know a guy who knows a guy type of thing. Of course there are online job boards like Indeed, but even after applying to 10 to 15 positions, you may only hear back from one or two of those places. On top of that, not many businesses want to hire high schoolers who have barely any extra time on their hands.

Luckily, a while back my mom ran into a nice gentleman who owns the pony rides at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, and after chatting, the man mentioned to my mom that if I was interested in working for him, I should give him a call. So I, the animal enthusiast that I am, got in touch with him and behold, I landed myself a part time job.

Here recently I had my first two shifts, and I'm not sure about other jobs, but manning pony rides is tough work. First of all, I knew next to nothing about horses going into this job, which meant that no, I did not know how to guide the "bit" of the bridle into a pony's mouth and quite frankly I was extremely confused and nervous while trying to accomplish the feat. Mind you, some of the ponies like to run away from you when it's time to bridle them (insert massive eye-roll here).

Probably the hardest part so far of the job is all the heavy lifting. I'm considerably weak in comparison to the average person it seems, so I've been struggling a little bit. For example, lifting a heavy saddle off of its hook (which is way above my head) and then continuing to lift it up on a horse is extremely strenuous for me. Needless to say, I'm proud of myself for accomplishing it. In addition, from nine in the morning until six in the evening, I am constantly lifting children of all shapes, sizes and temperaments onto the ponies and horses.

There are also 100 things you have to be doing and watching out for at any given moment: taking parents' tokens, placing kids on horses and ponies, giving parents and kids instructions, listening for directions, pulling out the horses in a specific but ever-changing order and setting them on their way, running to different spots of the track to make sure the animals aren't stopping to eat grass or stopping because they just plain want to, reeling the horses back in and unloading children, tightening and straightening saddles and yes, cleaning up horse poop.

On top of all of this, the horses, of course, have personalities. They're just like big, hairy, stubborn, four-legged people, and it isn't a rarity when a horse or pony develops a bit of an attitude with you. In my own experience, Falcon, a sure beauty, was possibly a little bit annoyed with me, and whilst petting his face and neck, he turned around and butted me in the face with his nose, giving me a bit of a fat lip and bruised feelings (I was under the impression that Falcon was fond of me prior to this incident). It could have been completely unintentional, but it's debatable.

Aside from the challenging moments, I've had a lot of fun working with the horses and learning each of their personalities and interacting with both coworkers and zoo-comers. I don't believe this is a typical 'first job,' but it's nice to finally be getting out there and earning some money. When it comes down to it, it's all about putting yourself out there and getting down to business. Being a hard worker and a kind person are great traits to have, and those are the kind of assets that will earn you a well-deserved position in the workforce and a whole lot of respect. Whatever job you do, the important thing is you do it right and respectably. In the meantime, you can catch me way out in the wild, wild west corralling horses and ponies around all day. Yee-haw cowboy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON BEER

Jason Beer (above) started playing the banjo the summer of 2015 after his wife introduced it to him and encouraged him to learn how to play. His appreciation for music has only continued to grow since then, and he thoroughly enjoys playing in his free time.

Teachers moonlight as musicians outside of typical school atmosphere

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

There is a common misconception amid the student body that teachers truly live their jobs, possessing no sort of social life outside the walls of the high school. However, this couldn't be farther from the truth. Here we are, quelling the rumors to expose some hidden musical talents deep within the caverns of a select few teacher's brains which students may not have previously known about. From tickling the ivories of a piano to traveling across the country to perform with a tight group of friends, it appears as if, for some teachers, grading papers and planning lessons may not after all be their favorite pastime activities.

"Some people party, some people play video games, (but) my friends yodeled."

DARREN DRAYER
History Teacher

Darren Drayer, history teacher, has, in fact, been involved with music long before his teaching career ensued. Although lacking a substantial amount of formal musical education, he was exposed to music through his church's a cappella congregational choir at a young age.

"As a child I took a few months of piano lessons, but I fizzled out due to lack of interest and effort (and) similar to my piano lessons, I placed little importance on singing," Drayer said. "This changed when I became a Christian in my teens; my appreciation for singing grew as my devotion to God matured."

Drayer's freshman year of college was when his love for music truly took flight.

"I became involved in a Gospel Quartet as a freshman in college," Drayer said. "The four of us were friends who attended the same church. Although we all had limited experience with music, we enjoyed singing and felt a calling to minister to the elderly through song. In September of 2000, we dubbed ourselves the Psalm 100 Quartet and began practicing...(visiting) local nursing homes, churches and hospitals...We have sung in Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Colorado, Tennessee and Alabama...In addition to traveling around and singing about Jesus, we have recorded five CDs."

PHOTO COURTESY OF DARREN DRAYER

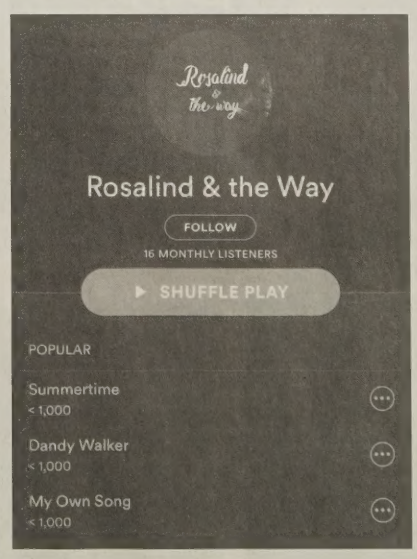
Darren Drayer (second from right) travels to different locations with the members of his quartet, performing at places such as a nursing homes and hospitals. The group has even recorded several a cappella CDs.

As well as singing in a quartet, Drayer has the ability of yodeling which he picked up back in high school.

"I started yodeling when I was in high school because my group of friends thought it was cool--we still do," Drayer said. "Some people party, some play video games, (but) my friends yodeled."

Another teacher, Jason Beer, has background in music as well, however his musical talents developed a little later in life.

"I've loved the sound of the banjo for several years now and I have been saying I want to learn an instrument for several years as well," Beer said. "This past summer my wife bought me a used banjo. I tried learning by myself over the summer and last fall but that proved to be too difficult, especially since I don't have a background in music. (Eventually) I started taking lessons and that has been a huge turning point in learning the instrument."



Cassie Beer, Jason Beer's wife, records music with her band Rosalind & the Way, which can be found in a playlist on Spotify. Jason hopes to perform with his wife in little coffee shops in the next few years.

The influence of music in general has impacted Beer from a young age, however, making his excitement and desire to play strong.

"I think I can say I was ahead of my peers in appreciating older music as early as middle school," Beer said. "Back then I was already listening to Louis Armstrong, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Van Morrison, Cat Stevens, Ella Fitzgerald. This was largely due to the influence of my older brother and his friends. I still vividly remember listening to 'Green River' by CCR riding in his best friend's van on the way to school."

"My goal is that by the time I'm 35 (I turn 32 this summer) we will be able to play locally in coffee shops or at farmer's markets."

JASON BEER
English Teacher

Another big influence which motivated Beer to learn banjo was his wife, lead singer for her band Rosalind and the Way.

"Originally, (my wife) was a huge reason why I started playing the banjo," Beer said. "Music is one of the biggest passions of her life... She leads a band called Rosalind and the Way. She is kind enough to play with me at home with a few of the songs I'm learning and we played together at her birthday party this past year. My goal is that by the time I'm 35 (I turn 32 this summer) we will be able to play locally in coffee shops or at farmer's markets--just small things for fun, something that we can do together. I want to be able to share with her this love and passion she has."

Tucked away within the walls of this high school are teachers worthy of the Variety Show, and maybe if a student asks them enough, they will provide a little preview of their skills.

designed by melana rossi

LIFE

Students share stories about very famous relatives

Musician Jordan Witzigreuter, athletes Bonzi Wells and Trent Green have connections to Spartan students

BY MICHAL SPANJER
Executive Editor

MADISON GENTRY (10)

Sister's Boyfriend: Jordan Witzigreuter (The Ready Set)

Spartana: What is Jordan's role in the band?

Gentry: He is the main singer and he also plays drums.

Spartana: How often do you go to his concerts?

Gentry: He and my sister live in LA (now), so not so much anymore, but when they used to live in Fort Wayne, we used to go pretty often. They moved about four years ago.

Spartana: Are you interested in music as well?

Gentry: I do not play any instruments, but I do like his music a lot. It's pretty upbeat and always fun to listen to, especially his new album. That just came out in February, I believe.

Spartana: How often do you mention Jordan to your peers?

Gentry: Not too much. I don't want it to seem like I'm bragging or anything, so I try not to talk about it too much. If they ask, of course I'll talk about it.

Spartana: Have you ever gotten to do anything or meet anyone because of him?

Gentry: Well, I got to go to Warped Tour two years ago and I got to stand on the stage behind the speakers. I did that a couple times but I haven't met anyone famous. I know my sister has, though. She's met Miley Cyrus' brother because he's on tour with Jordan and Debby Ryan, from Disney channel--she met her at one of the parties that Jordan's band was at.

Spartana: Do you have a favorite memory with your sister and Jordan?

Gentry: They've been dating for 11 years, actually, so he's been there ever since I can remember and we would go to the Whispering Meadows playground a lot and I remember that because it was a pretty fun memory with Jordan and Katelyn.

GAWEN WELLS (12)

Dad: Bonzi Wells (NBA)

Spartana: What was his position on the team?

Wells: He played small forward and shooting guard.

Spartana: How often did you get to go to his games?

Wells: I went a lot, actually. He played for four teams: the Sacramento Kings, the (Portland) Trail Blazers, the (Houston) Rockets and the (Memphis) Grizzlies, and I pretty much went to most of his games that were close to me when I was younger. (He stopped playing) around my eighth grade year.

Spartana: Are you also interested in basketball or any sport?

Wells: Yeah, I play baseball and football, but I used to play basketball, so I used to work on basketball with him.

Spartana: How often do mention your dad to your peers?

Wells: I don't really like bringing him up that much, but, if I do bring him up, I just talk about him in general, not about his position. Usually, the first day of school people will bring it up and ask me about my dad, but that was more freshman year and sophomore year because people were just wondering.

Spartana: Were you able to meet other players or do anything special because of your connection to him?

Wells: I met Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant and Rasheed Wallace, (who is) actually my uncle. He played for the Detroit Pistons. And then Jermaine O'Neal is a really good friend of my dad's, so we go to his house a lot.

Spartana: What do you consider your favorite memory with your dad?

Wells: Just spending time with him, really. At a young age, he was always traveling so he made time to spend with me when he could, but other than that, when he was on the road, it was kind of hard to see him.

BEN SKOWRONEK (12)

Uncle: Trent Green (NFL)

Spartana: What's was your uncle's position?

Skowronek: He played quarterback.

Spartana: Did you ever go to his games?

Skowronek: Yeah, growing up, I went to a lot of his games. I went to some in Kansas City. Then I went to his games in the Midwest: Cleveland, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, places like that we would drive to and then we would fly out to Kansas City a couple times each year to see the games. They were a lot of fun.

Spartana: Do you share an interest in sports?

Skowronek: Yeah, I'm interested in football as well. That's what I play (on the school's team). I play wide receiver. Growing up, being around him kind of inspired me a little bit. Always being around the NFL, I'd always dream as a kid that I'd be part of that.

Spartana: Do you mention your uncle a lot to your peers?

Skowronek: I don't know, it doesn't really come up a lot but when people ask, I'm fine with it and I'm able to share some experiences with some other people. Every now and then it comes up but not very often.

Spartana: What kinds of activities did you get to take part in because of your uncle? Did you ever get to meet celebrities through your uncle?

Skowronek: Yeah, I was able to go to the practices over the years and meet all the players, meet all the coaches. So, I know a couple of the players through my uncle, which is really cool. And just the experiences of going into the locker room after games and things like that are really cool.

Spartana: What do you consider to be your favorite memory with your uncle?

Skowronek: Probably going to the games and hanging out with the players. Those are good memories. And hanging out with my family, playing pickup games with my cousins. It's memories like that I'll never forget.

Robotics places 12th at state

Team begins work to finance next season's projects

BY ARIKA AKIN
News Editor

The Spartan Olympic Robotics team competed at a state-level For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) competition in Kokomo, Ind. on Apr. 16. The team placed 12th out of 31 robotics teams. They are therefore unable to go onto World Championships in St. Louis, as to qualify they would have had to place ninth. Even though the team was unable to go on to the championship, the members of the team are excited about placing the highest they ever have at the Indiana competition.

"The nice thing was that the kids dealt with it well," Robert Steverson, advisor and science teacher, said. "They really took pride in the fact that they had a really good, respectable season; we're standing toe to toe in our third year with teams that have been doing this for years."

This season has been a successful one for the team overall, as they won the General Motors Industrial Design Award. This award, given to teams who have created an efficient and effective machine, is an honor to the team, who has been competing for three years.

"We won (the award) for our electrical panels, which were made so they can slide in and out really easily," Aryn Thomas (12) said "It was just a huge honor to win the award because it's the main award that we've won that isn't for being a finalist or for being a really good rookie team."

At competitions, team members work to increase Spartan spirit, find sponsors for the team or work with the actual competition machine.Thomas, scouting leader, spends her time at the competitions strategizing.

"I was managing people scouting in the stands, recording all of their information ... watching the other teams and figuring out what they do so if we end up being an alliance captain or first pick we know who to chose to complement our robot" Thomas said.

Thomas works with Dakota Alverson (12), team captain and drive coach, to find strengths and weaknesses of the other teams.

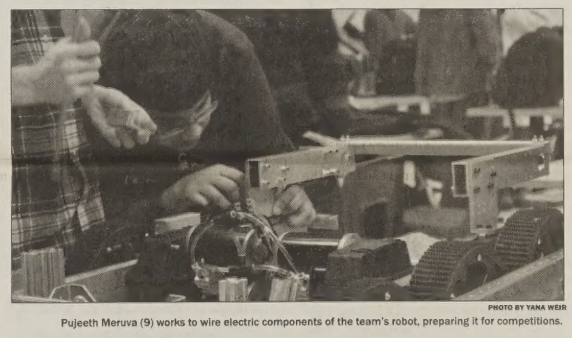


PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Pujeeth Meruva (9) works to wire electric components of the team's robot, preparing it for competitions.

"I'm in charge of the four-person drive team and I make up the strategy. I'm also on the electrical subteam so whenever repairs to the robot needed to be made I made them," Alverson said.

Other team members, such as Angel Pallares (12), spend their time at the competitions cheering on their team.

"Cheering for my team, even cheering for other teams is my favorite part," Pallares said. "Just watching the other teams and cheering is really exciting to me."

Any Spartan interested in science, business, art or technology can join the robotics team to compete in the international FIRST competition next season.

"We're really good at getting the typical people who want to work on the robot, but we're still fighting to get people to understand that the robotics team isn't all about the robot-- they're really trying to run a robotics company," Steverson said.

Performers brew up talent at the night of NHS Coffeehouse

Students came out and supported fellow classmates in this year's performances

BY ALEXIS JORDAN
Co-Online Editor

One of the many traditions here at the school is Fine Arts Week, where the school comes together to take part in honoring the work many students create for their art classes or on their own. The National Honor Society (NHS) puts together a coffeehouse for people to come out and see the art in the gallery and provides an opportunity for students to display their voice in poetry or music. The coffeehouse not only allowed for others to appreciate Fine Arts Week, but helped the NHS raise money by selling coffee and treats at low prices.

Anyone was welcome to sign up and perform the night of the coffeehouse, and each student filled a 10 minute time between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. This year there were 14 students who prepared songs or poetry to perform in front of the parents and students who came. The performers provided the audience with a variety of musical styles and unique poems.

Macy Plesko (10), who has been playing music for six years, played the piano and performed a cover of "Skinny Love" before rapping to "Ice Ice Baby" and improvising a song to read as poetry. She expressed her thoughts on the other performers of the night and believed everyone was very well prepared and performed well.

"I liked the poetry, it was thought provoking," Plesko said.

She put on not only a humorous show but displayed the variety of talents she has. Plesko has already expressed her interest in performing again next year.

"I think I'll be more prepared next year and do actual music but I definitely want to try and do it again," Plesko said.

Jacob McDonald (11) was another one of the students who performed this year. He has always been interested in the way music can relate to others and it was not until the start of his freshman year when he began teaching himself to play guitar. Though he had a few lessons prior, the majority of his skills came from his own teachings.

The variety of bands he listens to has always been a big influence on his music and sparked his passion for it. This was his first time performing at the coffeehouse where he sang three original songs.

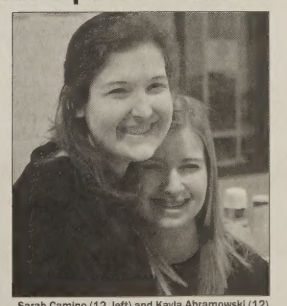
"I feel like music can make something beautiful out of any situation, even in the saddest situations," McDonald said.

In addition to McDonald, Keegan Ferrell (11) performed original songs and sang covers of others.

"I love the feeling of just being up on stage and getting to express myself," Ferrell said.

Arts Week was a big success as many students stopped in for the coffeehouse. Whether it was roaming the art gallery, watching students perform music and poetry or just stopping by the coffee bar, the students and parents enjoyed their night and gave their appreciation of the students' talents in the arts.

PHOTOS BY KATIE MAHER



Sarah Camino (12, left) and Kayla Abramowski (12) enjoy the coffehouse.

Sarah Auger (11), Julia Dombrowski (11), Emina Halimanovic (11), Medina Halimanovic (11), Ashley Hennessey (11) and Claire Costello (11) sit around listening to the musicians playing live.

designed by emma pearl

Student jobs: A behind-the-scenes look at working at the zoo pony rides

BY AWBREI VACHON
Life Editor '15-16

There are two kinds of high schoolers: the ones who try to join the workforce as soon as they are eligible and the ones who put it off for as long as they possibly can. I per say fall into the latter category.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my unemployment throughout the last three years of high school, but out of necessity and desire, that chapter of my life has come to a close and ahead of me another one has busted right open. As a senior in high school, I am getting quite a late start at job searching, but better late than never, right?

Maybe it's just me, but finding a job is hard.

You kind of have to know a guy who knows a guy type of thing. Of course there are online job boards like Indeed, but even after applying to 10 to 15 positions, you may only hear back from one or two of those places. On top of that, not many businesses want to hire high schoolers who have barely any extra time on their hands.

Luckily, a while back my mom ran into a nice gentleman who owns the pony rides at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, and after chatting, the man mentioned to my mom that if I was interested in working for him, I should give him a call. So I, the animal enthusiast that I am, got in touch with him and behold, I landed myself a part time job.

Here recently I had my first two shifts, and I'm not sure about other jobs, but manning pony rides is tough work. First of all, I knew next to nothing about horses going into this job, which meant that no, I did not know how to guide the "bit" of the bridle into a pony's mouth and quite frankly I was extremely confused and nervous while trying to accomplish the feat. Mind you, some of the ponies like to run away from you when it's time to bridle them (insert massive eye-roll here).

Probably the hardest part so far of the job is all the heavy lifting. I'm considerably weak in comparison to the average person it seems, so I've been struggling a little bit. For example, lifting a heavy saddle off of its hook (which is way above my head) and then continuing to lift it up on a horse is extremely strenuous for me. Needless to say, I'm proud of myself for accomplishing it. In addition, from nine in the morning until six in the evening, I am constantly lifting children of all shapes, sizes and temperaments onto the ponies and horses.

There are also 100 things you have to be doing and watching out for at any given moment: taking parents' tokens, placing kids on horses and ponies, giving parents and kids instructions, listening for directions, pulling out the horses in a specific but ever-changing order and setting them on their way, running to different spots of the track to make sure the animals aren't stopping to eat grass or stopping because they just plain want to, reeling the horses back in and unloading children, tightening and straightening saddles and yes, cleaning up horse poop.

On top of all of this, the horses, of course, have personalities. They're just like big, hairy, stubborn, four-legged people, and it isn't a rarity when a horse or pony develops a bit of an attitude with you. In my own experience, Falcon, a sure beauty, was possibly a little bit annoyed with me, and whilst petting his face and neck, he turned around and butted me in the face with his nose, giving me a bit of a fat lip and bruised feelings (I was under the impression that Falcon was fond of me prior to this incident). It could have been completely unintentional, but it's debatable.

Aside from the challenging moments, I've had a lot of fun working with the horses and learning each of their personalities and interacting with both coworkers and zoo-comers. I don't believe this is a typical 'first job,' but it's nice to finally be getting out there and earning some money. When it comes down to it, it's all about putting yourself out there and getting down to business. Being a hard worker and a kind person are great traits to have, and those are the kind of assets that will earn you a well-deserved position in the workforce and a whole lot of respect. Whatever job you do, the important thing is you do it right and respectably. In the meantime, you can catch me way out in the wild, wild west corralling horses and ponies around all day. Yee-haw cowboy.

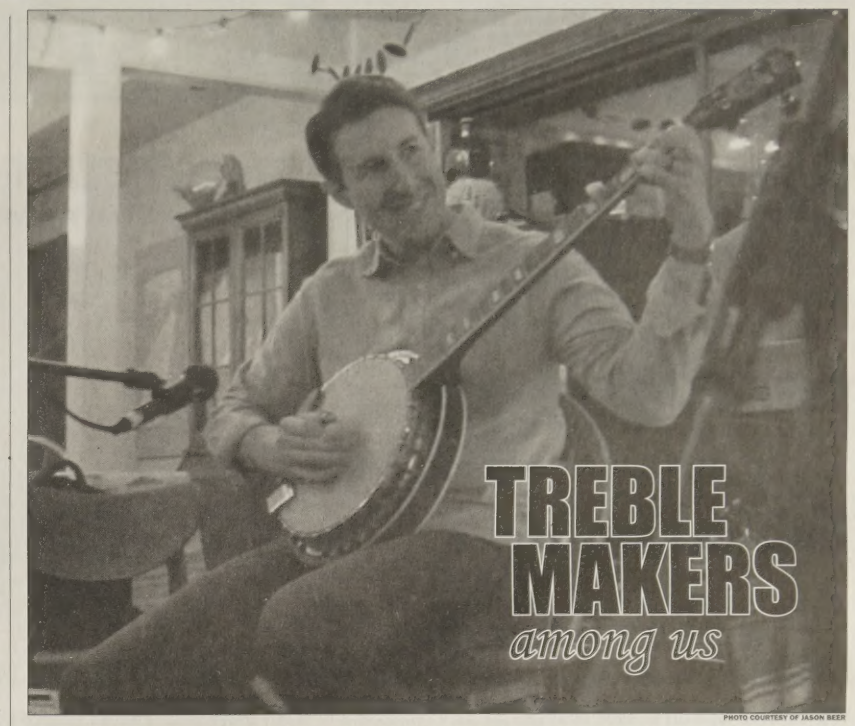


PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON BEER

Jason Beer (above) started playing the banjo the summer of 2015 after his wife introduced it to him and encouraged him to learn how to play. His appreciation for music has only continued to grow since then, and he thoroughly enjoys playing in his free time.

Teachers moonlight as musicians outside of typical school atmosphere

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

There is a common misconception amid the student body that teachers truly live their jobs, possessing no sort of social life outside the walls of the high school. However, this couldn't be farther from the truth. Here we are, quelling the rumors to expose some hidden musical talents deep within the caverns of a select few teacher's brains which students may not have previously known about. From tickling the ivories of a piano to traveling across the country to perform with a tight group of friends, it appears as if, for some teachers, grading papers and planning lessons may not after all be their favorite pastime activities.

"Some people party, some people play video games, (but) my friends yodeled."

DARREN DRAYER
History Teacher

Darren Drayer, history teacher, has, in fact, been involved with music long before his teaching career ensued. Although lacking a substantial amount of formal musical education, he was exposed to music through his church's a cappella congregational choir at a young age.

"As a child I took a few months of piano lessons, but I fizzled out due to lack of interest and effort (and) similar to my piano lessons, I placed little importance on singing," Drayer said. "This changed when I became a Christian in my teens; my appreciation for singing grew as my devotion to God matured."

Drayer's freshman year of college was when his love for music truly took flight.

"I became involved in a Gospel Quartet as a freshman in college," Drayer said. "The four of us were friends who attended the same church. Although we all had limited experience with music, we enjoyed singing and felt a calling to minister to the elderly through song. In September of 2000, we dubbed ourselves the Psalm 100 Quartet and began practicing...(visiting) local nursing homes, churches and hospitals...We have sung in Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Colorado, Tennessee and Alabama...In addition to traveling around and singing about Jesus, we have recorded five CDs."

As well as singing in a quartet, Drayer has the ability of yodeling which he picked up back in high school.

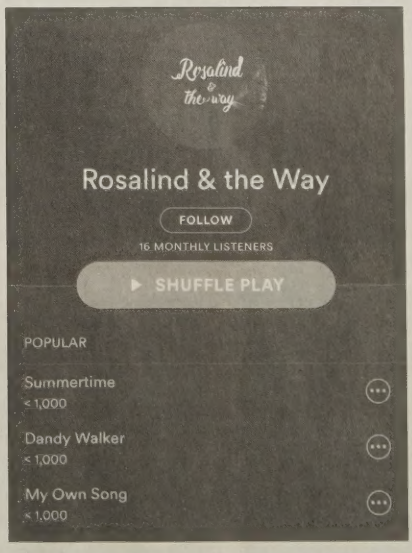
"I started yodeling when I was in high school because my group of friends thought it was cool--we still do," Drayer said. "Some people party, some play video games, (but) my friends yodeled."

Another teacher, Jason Beer, has background in music as well, however his musical talents developed a little later in life.

"I've loved the sound of the banjo for several years now and I have been saying I want to learn an instrument for several years as well," Beer said. "This past summer my wife bought me a used banjo. I tried learning by myself over the summer and last fall but that proved to be too difficult, especially since I don't have a background in music. (Eventually) I started taking lessons and that has been a huge turning point in learning the instrument."

PHOTO COURTESY OF DARREN DRAYER

Darren Drayer (second from right) travels to different locations with the members of his quartet, performing at places such as a nursing homes and hospitals. The group has even recorded several a cappella CDs.



Cassie Beer, Jason Beer's wife, records music with her band Rosalind & the Way, which can be found in a playlist on Spotify. Jason hopes to perform with his wife in little coffee shops in the next few years.

The influence of music in general has impacted Beer from a young age, however, making his excitement and desire to play strong.

"I think I can say I was ahead of my peers in appreciating older music as early as middle school," Beer said. "Back then I was already listening to Louis Armstrong, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Van Morrison, Cat Stevens, Ella Fitzgerald. This was largely due to the influence of my older brother and his friends. I still vividly remember listening to 'Green River' by CCR riding in his best friend's van on the way to school."

"My goal is that by the time I'm 35 (I turn 32 this summer) we will be able to play locally in coffee shops or at farmer's markets."

JASON BEER
English Teacher

Another big influence which motivated Beer to learn banjo was his wife, lead singer for her band Rosalind and the Way.

"Originally, (my wife) was a huge reason why I started playing the banjo," Beer said. "Music is one of the biggest passions of her life... She leads a band called Rosalind and the Way. She is kind enough to play with me at home with a few of the songs I'm learning and we played together at her birthday party this past year. My goal is that by the time I'm 35 (I turn 32 this summer) we will be able to play locally in coffee shops or at farmer's markets--just small things for fun, something that we can do together. I want to be able to share with her this love and passion she has."

Tucked away within the walls of this high school are teachers worthy of the Variety Show, and maybe if a student asks them enough, they will provide a little preview of their skills.

Girls softball remains successful after loss of six seniors

Currently undefeated team retains high expectations for the remainder of the 2016 season following a solid start and winning streak

BY EMMA PEARL
Life Editor

The start of the season for the school's softball team has not been a disappointing one. The team currently holds no losses, and hopes that the streak will remain for the entirety of the season. Despite the joy of winning, the team has had to cope with a great loss this season--that is, the loss of six of their seniors.

"We had super talented seniors on the offensive side, so we'll just have to keep building up on that," Katie Lael (11) said. "But it's still really early in the season so there's a lot of room to improve."

Lael is not alone in her thoughts, and one member, Hannah Mathieu (11), does not want people to think that not having those seniors means that the girls will play with any less enthusiasm.

"I mean, we miss those seniors, but we have to move on with the new season," Mathieu said. "We're still just as motivated as last year's team."

Their motivations are geared toward their tournament, as they are not in a conference this season.

"The only thing we're playing for is the tournament and sectionals and so on," Madisen Parker (11) said. "Last year we got to semi-state, so we hope to get that far again."

The team's current success and future success is in part due to Tom Clagg, team coach.

"He's super optimistic all the time and he pushed us to do our best and be our best," Mathieu said.

Not only does Clagg coach the girls, but he's treated like family.

"We really enjoy him and he's kind of like a grandfather figure to us," Parker said.

In fact, the entire team acts as one big family.

"Last year we were super close and we're super close again this year," Lael said. "Especially since a lot of the girls on varsity have played together since we were ten years old on our travel teams."

The performance of the team could very well be due to how close the girls are. They have known each other long enough to know how play together. At the end of the day, though, they're just having fun with their friends

"They're awesome and I love them so I'm glad to be on a team with them," Parker said.

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Macie Johnson (11) steps on the mound, prepping to pitch.

Lacrosse and rugby off to great seasons in club sports

New coaches and off-season changes prepare lacrosse and rugby players for intense seasons and overall strong beginnings

BY EMMA PEARL
Life Editor

Though the lacrosse season for both boys and girls started recently, the two teams have gotten a jump start and have each played a fair amount of games. The teams seem to be doing well with the changes from season to season. The biggest change: new coaches.

"Our last coach was more laid back and easygoing and now we have two college girls that coach us," Regan Jones (10), JV captain, said. "They obviously still have fun, but they definitely put us to work."

Not only do the girls have new coaches, but the boys have added some, like the school's very own Nathan Deinlein, social studies teacher. Aside from the coaches, however, there have been changes even in the dynamics of the team.

"Last year's team was very segregated in terms of your juniors and seniors and your freshman and sophomores," Madison Davis (12), varsity captain, said. "We've done a lot more team bonding outside of the practices and everything."

> "I think that we can get to the tournament, but there are a lot of teams in Indy that are on a completely different leve."
>
> **NATHAN DEINLEIN**
> *Coach*

The new team atmosphere has been good for the girls, and they have had success in some of their games. The boys team, who are currently sporting just as many wins as losses at two and two, has high hopes for the season, but know they have a long way to go.

"I think that we can get to the tournament, but there are a lot of teams in Indy that are on a completely different level," Deinlein said. "They have guys picking up sticks at age five, where most of our guys are picking up a stick as freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors in high school."

The success of the team might depend on an optimistic attitude of the players and a love of the sport, which does not seem to be lacking.

"It's a good team sport and everyone gets a lot of time with the ball," Emily Combs (11) said.

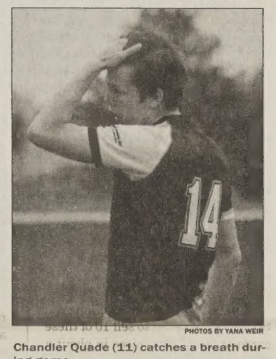
2-2 Rugby record 5/3/16

The school's rugby team--though, not all of its member are students at the school--is still fresh into the season, as it only started a few weeks ago. They have not played too many games yet and their current record is one and one, but they are determined to continue with a winning streak.

"We've been doing pretty well this year and hopefully we continue to," David Boller (10) said.

According to Boller, who has been playing for two years, their success has a lot to do with how long they have been playing. The team has more experience this year, and is excited to gain even more over the course of the season--which they truly believe will ultimately put them at the top this year and in years to come.

Aaron Leszczynski (12) drives the ball forward.

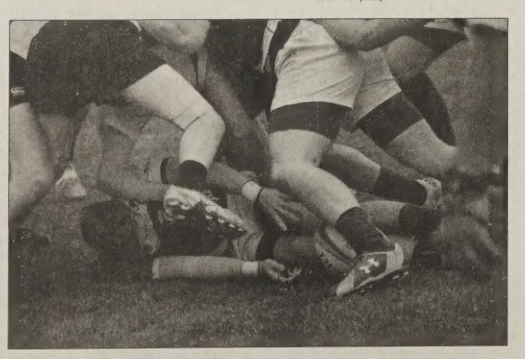


PHOTOS BY YANA WEIR

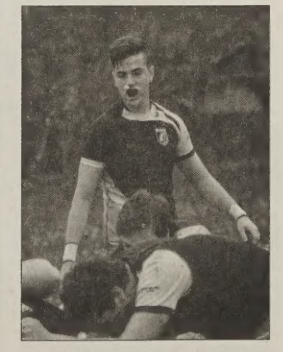
Chandler Quade (11) catches a breath during game

Hunter Damron (11) reaches for the ball in a line-out.

Hunter Damron (11) attempts to bring down Angola player with help of Diquan Dance (12).



David Boller (10) pushes ball out of ruck to teammates.



David Boller (10) stuffs his nose to stop bleeding.

Drew Uhrhammer (12) rushes ball down field.

Hunter Damron (11) tackles an Angola player.

How athletes cope with illness during the season

It is one of the many times of year when the seasonal athletic teams are setting out to sell as many products as they can to raise money for the school's athletic department. Currently, that would include beef jerky or sunflower seeds, only 20 dollars for three bags of jerky or six bags of seeds. What a deal! Except one problem: most people are not very excited to be buying these products, as most students have come to realize.

While fundraisers such as this one are very important for the funding of our school's athletic department, they are not easy and can cause a lot of stress for a large handful of athletes.

While beef jerky and sunflower seeds are the main focus of the season, there are other, probably more difficult products that students have been asked to sell for their school's athletic department. Some of these items include personalized tumbler cups or Homestead Discount Gold Cards, which most students have a slightly more difficult time selling, as they are less desired items.

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor
Co-Online Editor

Students in fall athletics are asked to sell Gold Cards, which provide small discounts at certain stores and restaurants around Fort Wayne, such as Marco's Pizza, TT Nails, Firehouse Subs and McDonald's. Students are asked to sell 10 of these cards at 20 dollars apiece in about a week.

While this is easy for some, it proves very difficult for others, especially those who have siblings trying to sell 10 of the cards as well. If these students do not sell all of theirs, there is a single day following where they will be expected to go out in a group to large public places such as Kroger or Jefferson Pointe and attempt to sell all of their remaining gold cards.

As a reward for students who successfully sell all of their cards, they will be given two additional gold cards to sell at their leisure and keep the money that they make from these.

For the boys' lacrosse team, a club sport connected to the school, more physical labor is needed. The boys sell outdoor garden mulch, and put it into the buyer's' yards. While this is most likely easier to sell, it is more difficult to carry out.

For the spring sports last year, the athletes had to sell tumbler cups that could be personalized with a sports team, college or pattern. These sold for 15 dollars each, and the students were busting their butts trying to get all 10 of the cups sold in time.

Clearly these fundraisers have proven to be stressful to most student athletes, and there is a standout reason why: the demand for the athletic fundraiser products is simply too low to ask students to sell large quantities. Most people will not splurge 15 or 20 dollars to buy a discount card or plastic cup from a student trying to reach a quota.

One smart solution for this would be to sell different products that would be in higher demand, perhaps at a lower price in higher quantity. For instance, Girl Scouts have no problem selling cookies, because everyone wants Girl Scout cookies. There are also the boxes of cookie dough that are popular around Fort Wayne.

These products are in high demand because they are cheaper and better known by the public. Maybe if the athletes sold something more well known for a cheaper price, they would have an easier time selling their required amount of products.

Overall, the athletic department is always in need of funding, but there may be more efficient and less stressful ways to raise this money.

Racing for Success

PHOTO BY ALANA HAUPERT

Alexis Thomas (10), Chloe Bowman (9) and Grace Mcguire (9) are determined to place well for their team mid-race.

Boys and girls track teams prepare for sectionals in midst mid-season success

BY TESSA VIRGILIO
Editor-in-Chief

Spikes struck tar back in January, as "trackletes" prepared for a season of competitive success. Until recently, coach and student hopes for a good run had been satiated by athletes' consistent effort in vying for the top spots.

"It takes a lot of conditioning," Cae'Sare Wright (12) said. "We run inside the building, and it usually consists of a lot of 200 meter runs and 300 meter runs to get us ready for the season."

So far, personal records have been set and unprecedented strides towards goals achieved.

"This season has been my best yet- I've set a new school record in the hurdles and won many events which has been a blessing," Wright said. "As a team it's going well. We've won some meets overall, and that is always fun, and we just keep improving; it's really awesome."

PHOTO BY ALANA HAUPERT

Joshua Majors (11), Zach Eckert (10) and Aaron Spikes (11) conversing after the meet.

The boys track and field team is a magnet for success this season, and reputable victories at the indoor track and field events and personal records represent such achievement.

The distance medley relay composed of Spencer Scholl (12), Sam Dvorak (11), Alex Sheppard (12), and Brayden Law (12) set a new record of 10:26 indoors. Brayden Law (12) broke the 1600 meter and 3200 meter race school records.

"This track season has gotten off to a great start as a team and individually," Dvorak said. "I was fortunate enough to be able to compete in the Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches (IATCCC) Indoor State Meet with Scholl, Law, and Sheppard where we were able to place third in the state. Our throwers, sprinters, and distance runners have all been competing at a high level in our first few outdoor meets where we have been able to compete with many of the state's top teams."

> "This season, as a team, we have done well, especially given the fact that we face stronger competition since we are in a new division.
>
> **JORDAN LABELLE (12)**

Team cohesiveness is critical to the overall performance, especially in an event such as relays, wherein trusting and supporting one's teammate is of utmost importance.

"We sometimes have a team dinner at like Noodles and Company just to carb up before a meet, and I love those days because we laugh and bond as a team," Wright said. "And any rituals we do are before group events, like relays we lock pinkys and pray and I love that personally."

Conditioning does not begin in high school for the runners and fielders, however. Getting to know one's strengths and finding one's stride among the multitude of track and field events is a challenge in itself and takes time to figure.

"I first got into track in the fourth grade, and I just loved competing," Wright said. "I grew up in a very competitive family, and the head to head competition of track is what kept me there. Lots of thing to pick from, but I participate in the 100 meter hurdles, 4x100 meter relay and 200 dash. My most recent scoring in these events is third in the hurdles, second in the 4x100 and first in the 200 dash, so I've been fortunate."

A track season rounds out for non-varsity athletes around this time, but for varsity and State-bound athletes, it culminates during the week of graduation.

"This season, as a team, we have done well, especially given the fact that we face stronger competition since we are in a new division," Jordan LaBelle (12) said. "Everyone has risen to the challenge and helped Homestead become a team to watch out for. Personally, it was going great but I have missed a few meets due to a hamstring injury."

Continual drive toward a unified goal propels the boys and girls forward. The efforts will shine through once each team performs at its most capable level at state on June 3 for girls and June 4 for boys.

"We are working very hard to prepare for the Pike Invitational (May 6) and sectionals (May 19)," Dvorak said. "Of course, we are looking to compete well against teams such as Carroll and talented teams in the Indy area."

To level with or top last year's success, the teams' energy and sync will be vital.

"This track season has been great for the team thus far," Grace Walther (12) said. "We have consistently placed in the top three teams at highly competitive meets. Personally, my season has been great. I now hold every distance record for the school both indoor and outdoor and have gotten a personal record in almost all of my events."

Students and coaches are in agreement that with a new platform to perform on, a new division, all can showcase their talents and what they are conditioned for if they keep the goal at the forefront of their mindsets.

"Team depth is really what will take us even farther," LaBelle said. "It's so important to have strong athletes who can perform well in multiple events so we are never lacking. This is something HHS has been really strong in in the last few years and it's been a factor in our continued success."

Anna Tarrel (9)

PHOTO BY ALANA HAUPERT

Girls softball remains successful after loss of six seniors

Currently undefeated team retains high expectations for the remainder of the 2016 season following a solid start and winning streak

BY EMMA PEARL
Life Editor

The start of the season for the school's softball team has not been a disappointing one. The team currently holds no losses, and hopes that the streak will remain for the entirety of the season. Despite the joy of winning, the team has had to cope with a great loss this season--that is, the loss of six of their seniors.

"We had super talented seniors on the offensive side, so we'll just have to keep building up on that," Katie Lael (11) said. "But it's still really early in the season so there's a lot of room to improve."

Lael is not alone in her thoughts, and one member, Hannah Mathieu (11), does not want people to think that not having those seniors means that the girls will play with any less enthusiasm.

"I mean, we miss those seniors, but we have to move on with the new season," Mathieu said. "We're still just as motivated as last year's team."

Their motivations are geared toward their tournament, as they are not in a conference this season.

"The only thing we're playing for is the tournament and sectionals and so on," Madisen Parker (11) said. "Last year we got to semi-state, so we hope to get that far again."

The team's current success and future success is in part due to Tom Clagg, team coach.

"He's super optimistic all the time and he pushed us to do our best and be our best," Mathieu said.

Not only does Clagg coach the girls, but he's treated like family.

"We really enjoy him and he's kind of like a grandfather figure to us," Parker said.

In fact, the entire team acts as one big family.

"Last year we were super close and we're super close again this year," Lael said. "Especially since a lot of the girls on varsity have played together since we were ten years old on our travel teams."

The performance of the team could very well be due to how close the girls are. They have known each other long enough to know how play together. At the end of the day, though, they're just having fun with their friends

"They're awesome and I love them so I'm glad to be on a team with them," Parker said.

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Macie Johnson (11) steps on the mound, prepping to pitch.

Lacrosse and rugby off to great seasons in club sports

New coaches and off-season changes prepare lacrosse and rugby players for intense seasons and overall strong beginnings

BY EMMA PEARL
Life Editor

Though the lacrosse season for both boys and girls started recently, the two teams have gotten a jump start and have each played a fair amount of games. The teams seem to be doing well with the changes from season to season. The biggest change: new coaches.

"Our last coach was more laid back and easygoing and now we have two college girls that coach us," Regan Jones (10), JV captain, said. "They obviously still have fun, but they definitely put us to work."

Not only do the girls have new coaches, but the boys have added some, like the school's very own Nathan Deinlein, social studies teacher. Aside from the coaches, however, there have been changes even in the dynamics of the team.

"Last year's team was very segregated in terms of your juniors and seniors and your freshman and sophomores," Madison Davis (12), varsity captain, said. "We've done a lot more team bonding outside of the practices and everything."

> "I think that we can get to the tournament, but there are a lot of teams in Indy that are on a completely different leve."
>
> **NATHAN DEINLEIN**
> *Coach*

The new team atmosphere has been good for the girls, and they have had success in some of their games. The boys team, who are currently sporting just as many wins as losses at two and two, has high hopes for the season, but know they have a long way to go.

"I think that we can get to the tournament, but there are a lot of teams in Indy that are on a completely different level," Deinlein said. "They have guys picking up sticks at age five, where most of our guys are picking up a stick as freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors in high school."

The success of the team might depend on an optimistic attitude of the players and a love of the sport, which does not seem to be lacking.

"It's a good team sport and everyone gets a lot of time with the ball," Emily Combs (11) said.

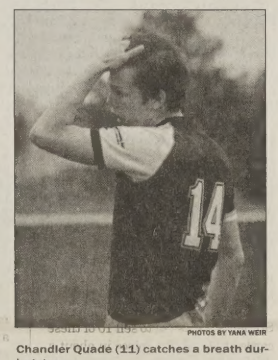
2-2 Rugby record 5/3/16

The school's rugby team--though, not all of its member are students at the school--is still fresh into the season, as it only started a few weeks ago. They have not played too many games yet and their current record is one and one, but they are determined to continue with a winning streak.

"We've been doing pretty well this year and hopefully we continue to," David Boller (10) said.

According to Boller, who has been playing for two years, their success has a lot to do with how long they have been playing. The team has more experience this year, and is excited to gain even more over the course of the season--which they truly believe will ultimately put them at the top this year and in years to come.

Aaron Leszczynski (12) drives the ball forward.



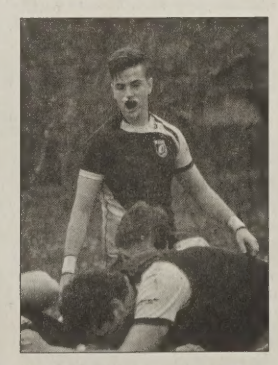
PHOTOS BY YANA WEIR

Chandler Quade (11) catches a breath during game

Hunter Damron (11) reaches for the ball in a line-out.

Hunter Damron (11) attempts to bring down Angola player with help of Diquan Dance (12).

David Boller (10) pushes ball out of ruck to teammates.



David Boller (10) stuffs his nose to stop bleeding.

Drew Uhrhammer (12) rushes ball down field.

Hunter Damron (11) tackles an Angola player.

How athletes cope with illness during the season

It is one of the many times of year when the seasonal athletic teams are setting out to sell as many products as they can to raise money for the school's athletic department. Currently, that would include beef jerky or sunflower seeds, only 20 dollars for three bags of jerky or six bags of seeds. What a deal! Except one problem: most people are not very excited to be buying these products, as most students have come to realize.

While fundraisers such as this one are very important for the funding of our school's athletic department, they are not easy and can cause a lot of stress for a large handful of athletes.

While beef jerky and sunflower seeds are the main focus of the season, there are other, probably more difficult products that students have been asked to sell for their school's athletic department. Some of these items include personalized tumbler cups or Homestead Discount Gold Cards, which most students have a slightly more difficult time selling, as they are less desired items.

BY KAYLEE YANOVICH
Sports Editor
Co-Online Editor

Students in fall athletics are asked to sell Gold Cards, which provide small discounts at certain stores and restaurants around Fort Wayne, such as Marco's Pizza, TT Nails, Firehouse Subs and McDonald's. Students are asked to sell 10 of these cards at 20 dollars apiece in about a week.

While this is easy for some, it proves very difficult for others, especially those who have siblings trying to sell 10 of the cards as well. If these students do not sell all of theirs, there is a single day following where they will be expected to go out in a group to large public places such as Kroger or Jefferson Pointe and attempt to sell all of their remaining gold cards.

As a reward for students who successfully sell all of their cards, they will be given two additional gold cards to sell at their leisure and keep the money that they make from these.

For the boys' lacrosse team, a club sport connected to the school, more physical labor is needed. The boys sell outdoor garden mulch, and put it into the buyer's' yards. While this is most likely easier to sell, it is more difficult to carry out.

For the spring sports last year, the athletes had to sell tumbler cups that could be personalized with a sports team, college or pattern. These sold for 15 dollars each, and the students were busting their butts trying to get all 10 of the cups sold in time.

Clearly these fundraisers have proven to be stressful to most student athletes, and there is a standout reason why: the demand for the athletic fundraiser products is simply too low to ask students to sell large quantities. Most people will not splurge 15 or 20 dollars to buy a discount card or plastic cup from a student trying to reach a quota.

One smart solution for this would be to sell different products that would be in higher demand, perhaps at a lower price in higher quantity. For instance, Girl Scouts have no problem selling cookies, because everyone wants Girl Scout cookies. There are also the boxes of cookie dough that are popular around Fort Wayne.

These products are in high demand because they are cheaper and better known by the public. Maybe if the athletes sold something more well known for a cheaper price, they would have an easier time selling their required amount of products.

Overall, the athletic department is always in need of funding, but there may be more efficient and less stressful ways to raise this money.

PHOTO BY ALANA HAUPERT

Alexis Thomas (10), Chloe Bowman (9) and Grace Mcguire (9) are determined to place well for their team mid-race.

Boys and girls track teams prepare for sectionals in midst mid-season success

BY TESSA VIRGILIO
Editor-in-Chief

Spikes struck tar back in January, as "trackletes" prepared for a season of competitive success. Until recently, coach and student hopes for a good run had been satiated by athletes' consistent effort in vying for the top spots.

"It takes a lot of conditioning," Cae'Sare Wright (12) said. "We run inside the building, and it usually consists of a lot of 200 meter runs and 300 meter runs to get us ready for the season."

So far, personal records have been set and unprecedented strides towards goals achieved.

"This season has been my best yet- I've set a new school record in the hurdles and won many events which has been a blessing," Wright said. "As a team it's going well. We've won some meets overall, and that is always fun, and we just keep improving. it's really awesome."

The boys track and field team is a magnet for success this season, and reputable victories at the indoor track and field events and personal records represent such achievement.

The distance medley relay composed of Spencer Scholl (12), Sam Dvorak (11), Alex Sheppard (12), and Brayden Law (12) set a new record of 10:26 indoors. Brayden Law (12) broke the 1600 meter and 3200 meter race school records.

"This track season has gotten off to a great start as a team and individually," Dvorak said. "I was fortunate enough to be able to compete in the Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches (IATCCC) Indoor State Meet with Scholl, Law, and Sheppard where we were able to place third in the state. Our throwers, sprinters, and distance runners have all been competing at a high level in our first few outdoor meets where we have been able to compete with many of the state's top teams."

> "This season, as a team, we have done well, especially given the fact that we face stronger competition since we are in a new division.
>
> **JORDAN LABELLE (12)**

Team cohesiveness is critical to the overall performance, especially in an event such as relays, wherein trusting and supporting one's teammate is of utmost importance.

"We sometimes have a team dinner at like Noodles and Company just to carb up before a meet, and I love those days because we laugh and bond as a team," Wright said. "And any rituals we do are before group events, like relays we lock pinkys and pray and I love that personally."

Conditioning does not begin in high school for the runners and fielders, however. Getting to know one's strengths and finding one's stride among the multitude of track and field events is a challenge in itself and takes time to figure.

"I first got into track in the fourth grade, and I just loved competing," Wright said. "I grew up in a very competitive family, and the head to head competition of track is what kept me there. Lots of thing to pick from, but I participate in the 100 meter hurdles, 4x100 meter relay and 200 dash. My most recent scoring in these events is third in the hurdles, second in the 4x100 and first in the 200 dash, so I've been fortunate."

PHOTO BY ALANA HAUPERT

Joshua Majors (11), Zach Eckert (10) and Aaron Spikes (11) conversing after the meet.

A track season rounds out for non-varsity athletes around this time, but for varsity and State-bound athletes, it culminates during the week of graduation.

"This season, as a team, we have done well, especially given the fact that we face stronger competition since we are in a new division," Jordan LaBelle (12) said. "Everyone has risen to the challenge and helped Homestead become a team to watch out for. Personally, it was going great but I have missed a few meets due to a hamstring injury."

Continual drive toward a unified goal propels the boys and girls forward. The efforts will shine through once each team performs at its most capable level at state on June 3 for girls and June 4 for boys.

"We are working very hard to prepare for the Pike Invitational (May 6) and sectionals (May 19)," Dvorak said. "Of course, we are looking to compete well against teams such as Carroll and talented teams in the Indy area."

To level with or top last year's success, the teams' energy and sync will be vital.

"This track season has been great for the team thus far," Grace Walther (12) said. "We have consistently placed in the top three teams at highly competitive meets. Personally, my season has been great. I now hold every distance record for the school both indoor and outdoor and have gotten a personal record in almost all of my events."

Students and coaches are in agreement that with a new platform to perform on, a new division, all can showcase their talents and what they are conditioned for if they keep the goal at the forefront of their mindsets.

"Team depth is really what will take us even farther," LaBelle said. "It's so important to have strong athletes who can perform well in multiple events so we are never lacking. This is something HHS has been really strong in in the last few years and it's been a factor in our continued success."

PHOTO BY ALANA HAUPERT

CUE THE LIGHTS

Theater debuts successful three-day showing of musical "Crazy for You"

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

The name itself of the musical "Crazy for You" should be a clear indicator that the theater department's spring show needs every sort of character. From a banker to cowgirls, many of the actors and actresses in this show have found that they have to step out of their comfort zones to fully transform into the individuals they were portraying.

The flapper dancers parade their colorful outfits and sassy dance moves.

"The cast is absolutely fabulous," Curtis Shaw, the show's director, said. "They are pros. Kolin Davis (11) and Avery Heatwole (12) are leading the show with amazing skill and poise."

As the musical's debut on April 29 neared, the cast narrowed its focus to work out the kinks and ensure that they gave a show-stopping performance that rattled all 700 seats in the auditorium.

"I really need to work on my voice before the official performances," Davis said before the show.

As the lead male role of Bobby Child, Davis had an important hand in the play, portraying a banker that dreams of performing. His aspirations take him to Deadrock, Nev. where he instantly falls in love with Polly Baker, a strong willed woman whose father owns the theatre Child aims to run out of business. The plot continues to thicken, and complications amount.

Polly Baker is played by Heatwole, a veteran to the theatre who has known Shaw since freshman year. Similar to Davis, she had some personal goals to achieve before the musical was performed.

"I need to work on becoming my character more," Heatwole said . "It's a little hard for me because she is so different from my personality that I have had a hard time fully embracing my character because it's very outside-of-the-box for me but it's really fun."

An important component to the musical is Shaw in the directorial role. The cast accredits much of its continued success to the positive and encouraging atmosphere that he provides.

"I actually auditioned for the play because I really enjoy the theatre productions at Homestead that Shaw orchestrates," Davis said.

Another key to this show's success was the cast and the script, which has enough drama and plot twists to match all the humor. With plenty of veterans returning to the stage, the production became easier to coordinate.

"We have an insanely talented cast," Heatwole said. "Our show is so much fun and the leads for sure all give 200 percent at every practice. It's a really fun show with a lot of humor."

Shaw explained that the play would not have success without a strong cast.

"The cast and crew are certainly the strong points," Shaw said. "They make my job much easier by how professionally they work."

Davis went on to add that along with a talented cast, the musical on its own provides an interesting story to depict.

"While the musical may sound like it follows a cliche 'Let's put on a show to save the _____' storyline, it's still original and funny in its own way," Davis said. "The music is also fantastic and will get stuck in your head all day."

A show cannot exist without a few key components. The first element is the cast. And this cast is a beautiful balance of seasoned veterans and eager, new faces. Another is the backup band, the pit orchestra, directed by Todd Roth. With practices starting up in March, they were hard at work as well preparing a jaw dropping show with a complicated score. Many people overlook the pit orchestra, although they were a crucial piece to the spring musical puzzle.

"The role of pit orchestra is to provide background music for the characters," Keenan Fitzharris (10) said. "My role as the drummer is to provide a steady beat for the performers to feel the tempo of their songs."

The pit orchestra logs almost as much time as the actors and actresses in the play.

"Practices for pit orchestra (were) every Wednesday and Thursday for 2, 4 or 5 hours," Fitzharris said.

It was not always all work and no play for the musical gang. In fact, many people auditioned for the play to improve their abilities and meet new people.

"I decided to join pit orchestra to improve my knowledge on all types of music," Fitzharris said. "This music is a very different style, and I'd like to learn as many styles as I can to improve my skills as a percussionist. I also joined because of all my good friends in the musical's cast."

The spring musical contained elements of surprise, humor and exquisite musicality, and all members of the production agree that the payoff was much worth the hours spent rehearsing.

PHOTOS BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Valerie Harants (12, front) leads a group of ensemble dancers across the stage.

the SPARTANA SPECIAL EDITION
volume forty five
may 19, 2016
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.
www.hhsspartana.com | A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Senior Salutations

As their times on staff ends, seniors reflect upon what it means to be a journalist for *The Spartana*

It has been a tradition among the publications department for the senior newspaper students to commemorate their time on staff with a final column. Many of these students have been on staff together for four years and friends just as long. The 2015-16 year for the newspaper staff has been one of learning and growth. The seniors are proud to have contributed to such a prestigious publication and hope their legacy continues far beyond the walls of the infamous Yellow Room.

Kylie Poling — Editor-in-Chief '15-16

I did not sign up for journalism my freshman year of high school, yet there I was anyway. Rod Kuhn was the eccentric adviser then, and in all honesty, the class was my study hall.

My freshman self, who probably still looked like a sixth grade boy, walked into class every day, looked away in disgust as Kuhn dropped salad all over himself and lectured with ranch spewing out of his mouth, then sat in the beloved Yellow Room and listened to ridiculous stories of pixies and the golden age of journalism at Homestead.

Sometime throughout that, though, I found a genuine love of writing.

My first year officially on the newspaper staff I was a sophomore. I was completely thrilled to have been named the opinion editor and I was the youngest editor on staff. I was terrified, but in a good way.

Fast forward three years and I'm nearing the end of my tenure as editor-in-chief. I've been to Boston, San Diego, Washington, D.C. and Orlando with the Spartana. As a staff we've won Best of Show from the National Scholastic Press Association. We've been nominated for a Pacemaker. We've been named the best high school newspaper in northeast Indiana. I've won national awards in categories like sports writing and opinion writing.

As a freshman, sitting in the Yellow Room in awe, I never would have thought any of that could have been possible. Other people did those cool things, not me. I was the quiet kid who sat in her Honors English classes hoping not to get called on to answer a question.

And somehow I ended up running the whole show.

That's probably the biggest lesson I've learned from four years in the publications department: follow opportunity. Got an interesting story lead? Follow it. Hear a weird rumor? Investigate it. Need to set the record straight? Tell the truth. Editor-in-chief position opens up? Take it. No matter how small an opportunity may seem, it often leads to something even bigger. You just have to follow it.

Senior year in general has taught me that plans are going to change and it's going to be terrifying, but that's where you find yourself. You're going to win some and you're going to lose some. You'll find a best friend, but you won't get that scholarship you were hoping for. You'll get into your dream school, but you'll crash your car. The bad stuff is going to suck, but the good stuff is going to make all the bad stuff worth it.

Right now is when the rest of our lives are being shaped, but they're not set in stone. We can change at any time, and that's the entire point of the stage of life we're in right now. Make mistakes. Learn from them. Make some more mistakes. And stop to enjoy life every once in awhile.

I've enjoyed my time in the publications department more than I ever thought I would. I've connected with so many people and I've learned so much, and a lot of that is because of Mrs. Nowak. Our adviser has taught me so much about myself these past two years and I can never thank her enough for her endless patience and encouragement, and also for the coffee that she surprised me with all the time. She saw how thin I would spread myself, trying to put together the best paper I could, but she never let me burn myself out.

One of the most memorable parts of my senior year has been sitting in the yellow room with her and talking about life and school and college and everything in between. Lawrence North may have loved her, but we needed her more. Above anything else, she made sure that we were all a family and that we all supported each other and that we all ate good food together.

She has been the ultimate publications mom and I think the only option I'm left with at this point is to pack her up and take her with me to Muncie in the fall.

NUMBER OF YEARS ON STAFF: 4

AWARDS: Superior Rating in Sports Writing individual competition by the JEA; Ball State University J-Day Excellent Award in Opinion Writing; Sterling Sentinel Excellence in Journalism nominee

COLLEGE: Ball State University to study English Education as a Cardinal Scholar

I didn't expect to get a second mom from the publications department, and I didn't expect to get a lifelong friend either.

Freshman year Reagan Mikesell intimidated me, but after travelling from coast to coast with her, I can now decidedly say she's now one of my best friends.

We've been so many places and done so many things together. We walked 5 miles in DC to get a burger, we hiked up a mountain in San Diego, we teared up in front of Cinderella's Castle together. And most importantly, we've built a friendship that doesn't depend on the superficiality of high school and instead thrives on the experiences we've had and the connections we share. Thanks for always being there, Cash $.

I can't really thank Reagan without thanking Adam either. Between stealing my food and keeping me on my toes, he's definitely been the most 'okay'-est of them all.

Two people who weren't in publications at all have helped along the way, too. Baileigh forced me to get coffee with her when deadlines were near and I was running thin. Meanwhile, Carter has been there for everything in between. From thinking he knows how to design a broadsheet to telling me when my writing uses too many big words, he's my number one supporter through it all. Thank you.

Perhaps most important of all, I need to thank the entire staff for all the hard work they've put in this year. You're a young staff and you've got a lot to learn, but I know that each and every one of you has the determination and the desire to continue the Homestead publications legacy.

It's definitely not going to be easy, but it will be worth it because this is your time now. I've done all I can do. Now it's up to you. Chase those opportunities and make the newspaper I know you're all capable of creating.

I'm going to miss sitting at my desk and interjecting into your conversations and getting to know all of you because it really has been one of the most rewarding parts of this year, watching all of you grow and become better journalists.

The lessons you learn in the Yellow Room will follow you for the rest of your life.

I found a family in the publications department. When life got crazy, publications was always crazier, but, somehow that helped me keep my sanity through the crazy whirlwind that was my four years of high school.

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

CUE THE LIGHTS

Theater debuts successful three-day showing of musical "Crazy for You"

BY MARY LANDRIGAN
Writer

The name itself of the musical "Crazy for You" should be a clear indicator that the theater department's spring show needs every sort of character. From a banker to cowgirls, many of the actors and actresses in this show have found that they have to step out of their comfort zones to fully transform into the individuals they were portraying.

The flapper dancers parade their colorful outfits and sassy dance moves.

"The cast is absolutely fabulous," Curtis Shaw, the show's director, said. "They are pros. Kolin Davis (11) and Avery Heatwole (12) are leading the show with amazing skill and poise."

As the musical's debut on April 29 neared, the cast narrowed its focus to work out the kinks and ensure that they gave a show-stopping performance that rattled all 700 seats in the auditorium.

"I really need to work on my voice before the official performances," Davis said before the show.

As the lead male role of Bobby Child, Davis had an important hand in the play, portraying a banker that dreams of performing. His aspirations take him to Deadrock, Nev. where he instantly falls in love with Polly Baker, a strong willed woman whose father owns the theatre Child aims to run out of business. The plot continues to thicken, and complications amount.

Polly Baker is played by Heatwole, a veteran to the theatre who has known Shaw since freshman year. Similar to Davis, she had some personal goals to achieve before the musical was performed.

"I need to work on becoming my character more," Heatwole said . "It's a little hard for me because she is so different from my personality that I have had a hard time fully embracing my character because it's very outside of the box for me but it's really fun."

An important component to the musical is Shaw in the directorial role. The cast accredits much of its continued success to the positive and encouraging atmosphere that he provides.

"I actually auditioned for the play because I really enjoy the theatre productions at Homestead that Shaw orchestrates," Davis said.

Another key to this show's success was the cast and the script, which has enough drama and plot twists to match all the humor. With plenty of veterans returning to the stage, the production became easier to coordinate.

"We have an insanely talented cast," Heatwole said. "Our show is so much fun and the leads for sure all give 200 percent at every practice. It's a really fun show with a lot of humor."

Shaw explained that the play would not have success without a strong cast.

"The cast and crew are certainly the strong points," Shaw said. "They make my job much easier by how professionally they work."

Davis went on to add that along with a talented cast, the musical on its own provides an interesting story to depict.

"While the musical may sound like it follows a cliche 'Let's put on a show to save the _' storyline, it's still original and funny in its own way," Davis said. "The music is also fantastic and will get stuck in your head all day."

A show cannot exist without a few key components. The first element is the cast. And this cast is a beautiful balance of seasoned veterans and eager, new faces. Another is the backup band, the pit orchestra, directed by Todd Roth. With practices starting up in March, they were hard at work as well preparing a jaw dropping show with a complicated score. Many people overlook the pit orchestra, although they were a crucial piece to the spring musical puzzle.

"The role of pit orchestra is to provide background music for the characters," Keenan Fitzharris (10) said. "My role as the drummer is to provide a steady beat for the performers to feel the tempo of their songs."

The pit orchestra logs almost as much time as the actors and actresses in the play.

"Practices for pit orchestra (were) every Wednesday and Thursday for 2, 4 or 5 hours," Fitzharris said.

It was not always all work and no play for the musical gang. In fact, many people auditioned for the play to improve their abilities and meet new people.

"I decided to join pit orchestra to improve my knowledge on all types of music," Fitzharris said. "This music is a very different style, and I'd like to learn as many styles as I can to improve my skills as a percussionist. I also joined because of all my good friends in the musical's cast."

The spring musical contained elements of surprise, humor and exquisite musicality, and all members of the production agree that the payoff was much worth the hours spent rehearsing.

PHOTOS BY PAWANDEEP BOLA

Valerie Harants (12, front) leads a group of ensemble dancers across the stage.

the SPARTANA SPECIAL EDITION
volume forty five
may 19, 2016
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.
www.hhsspartana.com | A 2013 NSPA Pacemaker Finalist | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Senior Salutations

As their times on staff ends, seniors reflect upon what it means to be a journalist for *The Spartana*

It has been a tradition among the publications department for the senior newspaper students to commemorate their time on staff with a final column. Many of these students have been on staff together for four years and friends just as long. The 2015-16 year for the newspaper staff has been one of learning and growth. The seniors are proud to have contributed to such a prestigious publication and hope their legacy continues far beyond the walls of the infamous Yellow Room.

Kylie Poling — Editor-in-Chief '15-16

I did not sign up for journalism my freshman year of high school, yet there I was anyway. Rod Kuhn was the eccentric adviser then, and in all honesty, the class was my study hall.

My freshman self, who probably still looked like a sixth grade boy, walked into class every day, looked away in disgust as Kuhn dropped salad all over himself and lectured with ranch spewing out of his mouth, then sat in the beloved Yellow Room and listened to ridiculous stories of pixies and the golden age of journalism at Homestead.

Sometime throughout that, though, I found a genuine love of writing.

My first year officially on the newspaper staff I was a sophomore. I was completely thrilled to have been named the opinion editor and I was the youngest editor on staff. I was terrified, but in a good way.

Fast forward three years and I'm nearing the end of my tenure as editor-in-chief. I've been to Boston, San Diego, Washington, D.C. and Orlando with the Spartana. As a staff we've won Best of Show from the National Scholastic Press Association. We've been nominated for a Pacemaker. We've been named the best high school newspaper in northeast Indiana. I've won national awards in categories like sports writing and opinion writing.

As a freshman, sitting in the Yellow Room in awe, I never would have thought any of that could have been possible. Other people did those cool things, not me. I was the quiet kid who sat in her Honors English classes hoping not to get called on to answer a question.

And somehow I ended up running the whole show.

That's probably the biggest lesson I've learned from four years in the publications department: follow opportunity. Got an interesting story lead? Follow it. Hear a weird rumor? Investigate it. Need to set the record straight? Tell the truth. Editor-in-chief position opens up? Take it. No matter how small an opportunity may seem, it often leads to something even bigger. You just have to follow it.

Senior year in general has taught me that plans are going to change and it's going to be terrifying, but that's where you find yourself. You're going to win some and you're going to lose some. You'll find a best friend, but you won't get that scholarship you were hoping for. You'll get into your dream school, but you'll crash your car. The bad stuff is going to suck, but the good stuff is going to make all the bad stuff worth it.

Right now is when the rest of our lives are being shaped, but they're not set in stone. We can change at any time, and that's the entire point of the stage of life we're in right now. Make mistakes. Learn from them. Make some more mistakes. And stop to enjoy life every once in awhile.

I've enjoyed my time in the publications department more than I ever thought I would. I've connected with so many people and I've learned so much, and a lot of that is because of Mrs. Nowak. Our adviser has taught me so much about myself these past two years and I can never thank her enough for her endless patience and encouragement, and also for the coffee that she surprised me with all the time. She saw how thin I would spread myself, trying to put together the best paper I could, but she never let me burn myself out.

One of the most memorable parts of my senior year has been sitting in the yellow room with her and talking about life and school and college and everything in between. Lawrence North may have loved her, but we needed her more. Above anything else, she made sure that we were all a family and that we all supported each other and that we all ate good food together.

She has been the ultimate publications mom and I think the only option I'm left with at this point is to pack her up and take her with me to Muncie in the fall.

NUMBER OF YEARS ON STAFF: 4

AWARDS: Superior Rating in Sports Writing individual competition by the JEA; Ball State University J-Day Excellent Award in Opinion Writing; Sterling Sentinel Excellence in Journalism nominee

COLLEGE: Ball State University to study English Education as a Cardinal Scholar

I didn't expect to get a second mom from the publications department, and I didn't expect to get a lifelong friend either.

Freshman year Reagan Mikesell intimidated me, but after travelling from coast to coast with her, I can now decidedly say she's now one of my best friends.

We've been so many places and done so many things together. We walked 5 miles in DC to get a burger, we hiked up a mountain in San Diego, we teared up in front of Cinderella's Castle together. And most importantly, we've built a friendship that doesn't depend on the superficiality of high school and instead thrives on the experiences we've had and the connections we share. Thanks for always being there, Cash $.

I can't really thank Reagan without thanking Adam either. Between stealing my food and keeping me on my toes, he's definitely been the most 'okay'-est of them all.

Two people who weren't in publications at all have helped along the way, too. Baileigh forced me to get coffee with her when deadlines were near and I was running thin. Meanwhile, Carter has been there for everything in between. From thinking he knows how to design a broadsheet to telling me when my writing uses too many big words, he's my number one supporter through it all. Thank you.

Perhaps most important of all, I need to thank the entire staff for all the hard work they've put in this year. You're a young staff and you've got a lot to learn, but I know that each and every one of you has the determination and the desire to continue the Homestead publications legacy.

It's definitely not going to be easy, but it will be worth it because this is your time now. I've done all I can do. Now it's up to you. Chase those opportunities and make the newspaper I know you're all capable of creating.

I'm going to miss sitting at my desk and interjecting into your conversations and getting to know all of you because it really has been one of the most rewarding parts of this year, watching all of you grow and become better journalists.

The lessons you learn in the Yellow Room will follow you for the rest of your life.

I found a family in the publications department. When life got crazy, publications was always crazier; but, somehow that helped me keep my sanity through the crazy whirlwind that was my four years of high school.

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Mary Landrigan

Writer '15-16

I still remember my first day of freshman year. I was so excited to be in a new place, reinvent myself, show off my new teeth and the four inches I gained over the last summer, wear my new clothes and receive unending compliments and get by doing a touch less than nothing in all my classes (as I was previously accustomed to in middle school). Boy was I far off that mark. I forgot lunch money so I didn't eat that day, a senior in the hallway bent down and burped right in my face, my tendonitis-infested knees gave out when I was dashing down a ramp to class, I was forced to read "Great Expectations" (which I still don't know anything about) and the cross country team decided that it was the perfect day to run six miles since it was such a "lovely" 87 degree afternoon. Oh joy.

But in all reality high school hasn't been anything like I imagined, and this includes both the good and the bad. The school wasn't out to get me, the teachers didn't thrive off our suffering (for the most part) and cross country was unfortunately far more difficult than I thought it would be. But in suffering I have been able to appreciate the brief breaths of rest that lie in between the chaos, and because I stuck it out with cross country all four years I managed to meet some of the most incredible creatures to walk this very planet. I was named a Senior Captain (which looked pretty solid on college applications) and I have learned probably more than I wanted about hard work and being part of something bigger than myself.

NUMBER OF YEARS ON STAFF: 1

COLLEGE: IPFW

However, the biggest thing that changed my life in high school ironically took a long time to start up, and the ways in which it has influenced my life are far beyond the realms of this word limit.

I'm just going to take a brief moment to really relish in the fact that I am indeed a senior with a handful of days left and it literally flew by before I could catch my breath, my mind is genuinely blown.

But I digress.

I think the pinnacle of my high school career (thankfully) came my senior year. Senioritis entered the playing field halfway into the second week of school, but the whole idea of "not caring" really changed my philosophy on life.

I stopped worrying about people's perceptions of me. I really sunk my teeth into this idea that if I can't make myself happy first, no one else will be able to. Ironically enough, in really attempting to embrace the real "Mary Landrigan," I gained a lot of friends while also realizing that some of the friends I'd had weren't really living up to the label.

I whipped to the "Watch Me" song in front of the entire school, fully aware of what a fool I made of myself, but I loved it and now I've got a story to share with my two closest pals, Paige Norton and Maggie Little, who danced right alongside me.

My verbal filter was slowly ebbing away (however there is still some debate as to whether this is a good or bad thing). I talked about things from the angle I saw them at, I didn't try to lie to suppress conflict. But by the same token I spent a lot more time listening, I tried to understand that no one really has this life easy; there's always hardships, difficulties and emotional breakdowns. After all, it's not like I'm the only one who has ever shed a tear or been stressed about juggling a million activities at the same time.

However, the biggest thing that Senioritis did for me was really drive and channel my passion for music. I am easily made uncomfortable when it comes to playing or singing for other people (and not just because I doubt the level of my abilities). This year something changed, like there was a subcategory within the "not caring" sector of Senioritis which flipped my mindset from "why?" to "why not?" So then I found fingers typing away frantically on a Thursday evening while en route to Gulf Shores requesting to play at the NHS Coffeehouse. And I got a time slot. And I actually walked up on that stage with my best friend Derek French and we sang and played guitars and suitcase drums and I had a fantastic time. Even those 10 minutes of performing opened more doors for me.

I pushed thoughts of discomfort aside to try and do what I loved. I didn't care if people disliked the way my voice sounded or if my piano playing or guitar strumming was subpar, because it's what I genuinely wanted to be doing. This confidence bled into my love for songwriting, and with very helpful exposure from the one and only Jacob McDonald, as well as this skyrocketing confidence I was discovering in not caring, I wrote the senior class a song. Then I found my arm being yanked over to the Senior Variety Show auditions by French to go sing this song in front of my peers, and though I shook like a leaf and resembled a cherry tomato by the close of the song rather than an actual person, I did it. As if that wasn't enough, I actually made the show. Then to take it one step further they put me in as the grand finale.

As if I wasn't busy enough, I am also accompanying the concert choir for Spectacular (a final show for all the sectors within the umbrella term "choir") as well as performing in three other acts on piano, guitar and even a dabbling of vocals. I am also performing in my own act, singing and playing a song I just wrote in 20 minutes before typing this article, so I guess we'll see how that goes. The Landrigan name must really get around the school, because I am also playing at the awards ceremony in between my softball games. Life's been a little more than crazy lately, but it's so much fun.

I understand that chaos isn't for everyone, but I thrive most at the heart of it. Senioritis has many side effects, but I haven't been necessarily subject to laziness--my schedule can't afford it. But in not caring, I've honestly learned more about who and what I love more than I could have fathomed, and therefore I am more than grateful for the diagnosis that came with my final year of high school.

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Pawandeep Bola

Photographer '15-16

Moving on to new things and new ideas can be difficult for some, but I usually adjust instantly. It was the same when it came to moving onto high school from middle school. I take change as a new opportunity for me to develop as a person, discover myself more and improve myself. In fact, one of my good friends who is a senior has yet to decide on a college for the fall. I believe that she is in fear of how well she will be able to take change, emotionally and how well she can adjust to possibly everything new. I would just like to wish her good luck for what's to come for her next in life.

I like to think that I've accomplished quite a bit all throughout my high school career. I have been a part of sports, clubs, theatrical productions, visual arts and everything else in between, so much so that I was even able to start a whole new club for Homestead -- Photography Club. Through all my accomplishments in high school, I really found myself as a person.

I began to understand how much I enjoyed staying busy. At the start of my sophomore year, I started to pick up multiple after school activities to fill my resume with extracurricular activities. That's when it all began. It's when I truly started having a "high school experience," as they call it. I made more friends, went out to more events, and just had more fun!

It's not just me who has achieved greatness at Homestead, the whole graduating class of 2016 has accomplished so much in the past four years of being Spartans. We have won numerous sports titles --sectionals, regionals, semi-state, state in all different supports-- we even set new records in fine arts, academics, and of course, sports. We are an amazingly successful group of individuals who know clearly where we belong and I believe that we are all going to do amazing things in the future. So, let's enjoy these last few days we left together and the best of every last moment before we all go our own separate ways. And here's to new beginnings!

NUMBER OF YEARS ON STAFF: 1

COLLEGE: Indiana University

Awbrei Vachon

Life Editor '15-16

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

As my senior year rolls to a close, there are many events, people and things that flood my mind--memories which thoughts of high school will exhume over the next several decades. High school was not what I expected it to be; in short, high school was far less exciting. I realize, however, it is the little things in life that matter. With that being said, I decided to do something completely unoriginal: list out everything and everybody that constituted and affected the last four years of my life, which I am eternally grateful for.

Short drinking fountains because it's much more convenient for me, being as short as I am.

Digital clocks, because taking the time to read a monologue clock would probably be the reason behind all of my tardies.

School laptops, for being both a brilliant tool in providing me everything I need, and for providing me with an excuse to sit there staring out into the distance during class because it refuses to work the way it was intended to: quickly and reliably.

Water bottles, because there was a time (freshman year, to be exact) when teachers could get mad at you for pulling out a water bottle in class because it might spill and not evaporate and ruin everything (water does that, apparently). Finally the school came to its sensing and allowed us water bottle-use in classrooms.

Pajama pants rebellion, also known as the biggest waste of rebellious ambition because nobody even wore pajama pants in the first place. it was ridiculous.

Dr. Price's AP Lit class, for showing me a brave new world of philosophy that was both beautiful and horrifying--Moby Dick will live on in infamy, haunting and enriching my life simultaneously.

Dual credit classes, because now I have successfully completely some college credits I no longer have to take in college.

My family for always supporting me and teaching me how to be a good person.

Senior experience -- a big shout out to this one. I can't even fathom how brutal my senior year would have been had I had a 7:45 a.m. to 2:35 p.m. schedule every day.

Mr. Harkness for making government class interesting, entertaining and enriching when I thought it would be boring, confusing and pointless.

The cookies at lunch because they truly make my tastebuds dance and my heart sing, making my days bearable.

Mrs. Tiernon for making my last year of track truly amazing. There is no one more full of light, comprised of more enthusiasm and passion, or funnier than she is.

All of my friends who have provided my with hundreds of laughs and gobs of support throughout my high school career.

Mrs. Jones for powering through the tough days and being a light to all.

My first relationship that has shown me a whole new perspective on life.

All of the tough experiences I went through that made me who I am today. All of the bad things that happened that made me good.

Homestead and all of its amazing teachers for providing so many great educational opportunities, we are truly lucky here at this school.

Also all of the school's staff members, such as the wonderful custodians, lunch ladies, administration and many more for working hard and being kind. Without them the school would not be the same.

Senior Skip Day as well as Senior Activity Day, because I have waited patiently for four years to indulge in these glorious traditions (note: yes we are all perfectly aware that Senior Skip Day is not an actual excused day, but quite frankly, we aren't too bothered by it).

NUMBER OF YEARS ON STAFF: 4

AWARDS: Ball State University J-Day Superior Award in News Writing

COLLEGE: IPFW

Spartana, for providing me with a sense of belonging, teaching me new skills and allowing me to express myself and my ideas. It's a truly beautiful program and I hope it flourishes in the future.

It's true--high school was nothing like I expected,, but despite great expectations being let down, high school did come complete with its drama, fun times, stress, payoffs, mistakes and most importantly: lessons.

I doubt you'll meet anyone who didn't get anything out of high school. It is an educational journey for sure, but more than anything it has actually supplied us with a combination of important life lessons. Teenagers are notorious for getting into trouble and having mental-stress breakdowns, among other things, and honestly I can't say we didn't prove those stereotypes wrong.

You learn in high school, by your senior year, that it doesn't matter what people think of you, that you're capable of so much more than you expect, that you don't always have to get so worked up about every little thing and that sometimes you just need to have a little faith that things will work out even when you have no clue what you're doing.

I'm not the first to say that it's crazy to think I'm graduating. Where did the time go? It feels like just last year I started as a freshman, and now I'm about put on that incredibly unflattering blue potato-sack-like gown, walk across a stage, receive a piece paper that is basically a physical representation of the last four years of my life and walk off that same stage as a completely different person. There's no going back from here and that is the single most terrifying thing ever.

Regardless of my fears, I'm beyond ready to start opening new doors. There's a beautiful world awaiting us grads out there, and as I literally finish writing out this chapter of high school, I'll shortly go on to write the next one.

Katie Maher

Opinion Editor '15-16

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

The first thing a student learns in their journalism class is the importance of being a honest and reliable news source. On that note, I signed up for journalism my freshman year because my mom said it would look better on a college resume than basket weaving. But it is funny to look back now and realize how some class I took for a credit my freshman year grew to be one of the most fulfilling, beautiful experiences of my high school career.

I hate to get a little corny here, but newspaper really gave me my voice. I came into Homestead my freshman year with close to zero confidence, and ended my four-year journey as the opinion editor for The Spartana, which led to my involvement in other news and opinion oriented classes such as news anchoring and radio DJing. I even came to the point where I felt confident and comfortable enough to speak in front of 3,500 people at the start of every school day for the morning announcements. But all of this, absolutely all of this, rooted from journalism here at Homestead.

NUMBER OF YEARS ON STAFF: 4

COLLEGE: Indiana University

So, to form a better picture, my freshman self was awkward (of course), secretly passionate about animal rights, admittedly more liberal than the majority people in this area, and therefore full of ideas that never came out. I knew my opinions were "radical" to the student body as well, and I was terrified of confrontation. I knew I was scared of sharing my opinion because of having so many planets in Libra (duh), but my interest in astrology would definitely count as a topic I would be too nervous to discuss as well. But after my dad walked me to my fifth period journalism class every day for about a week because I would get lost at the beginning of the year, I found an environment that changed my life.

We were encouraged to talk about those things you are not supposed to talk about, or write about sports. I went by the notion of "nobody reads the newspaper, so I can write what I want to write about." I remember one of my earliest opinion articles on the mistreatment of chickens in the food industry. It sounds dumb, but I wanted to write about it. I guess the judges did not think it was a dumb idea either, since that article, along with the rest of the insanely well-done stories that year by my dearly dearly beloved staff friends earned us a Pacemaker award.

To be part of what had continually been called the best student newspaper in the country is what ultimately led to this realization that I want to have a voice.

It is important for all of us to have a voice. From my personal standpoint, I know a couple of my articles on animal rights led to a few friends going vegetarian, but this goes for absolutely any topic base. Write about what you are passionate about, and do not be afraid to share your opinions.

> "Conversation catalyzes change. In a world that needs a lot of change, we need to talk."

Conversation catalyzes change. In world that needs a lot of change, we need to talk.

On a quick note, I would like to thank absolutely everyone I had the pleasure to be on staff with all of these years. I would like to specifically call out Matt Killham. You will always be a dweeb. Adam Swiatkowski is the bee's knees. I assure you Jessica Tebben is the nicest person to ever touch my soul, and Reagan is the loudest. Ethan Zweig, all of our articles would be close to dog poo if we did not have your eyes. A special thanks goes out to Kylie Poling as well. You are a great friend and the nicest Slytherin. I have never encountered someone who has a life as chaotic but pleasant as yours. I hope it gets better.

Mary Landrigan

Writer '15-16

I still remember my first day of freshman year. I was so excited to be in a new place, reinvent myself, show off my new teeth and the four inches I gained over the last summer, wear my new clothes and receive unending compliments and get by doing a touch less than nothing in all my classes (as I was previously accustomed to in middle school). Boy was I far off that mark. I forgot lunch money so I didn't eat that day, a senior in the hallway bent down and burped right in my face, my tendonitis-infested knees gave out when I was dashing down a ramp to class, I was forced to read "Great Expectations" (which I still don't know anything about) and the cross country team decided that it was the perfect day to run six miles since it was such a "lovely" 87 degree afternoon. Oh joy.

But in all reality high school hasn't been anything like I imagined, and this includes both the good and the bad. The school wasn't out to get me, the teachers didn't thrive off our suffering (for the most part) and cross country was unfortunately far more difficult than I thought it would be. But in suffering I have been able to appreciate the brief breaths of rest that lie in between the chaos, and because I stuck it out with cross country all four years I managed to meet some of the most incredible creatures to walk this very planet. I was named a Senior Captain (which looked pretty solid on college applications) and I have learned probably more than I wanted about hard work and being part of something bigger than myself.

NUMBER OF YEARS ON STAFF: 1

COLLEGE: IPFW

However, the biggest thing that changed my life in high school ironically took a long time to start up, and the ways in which it has influenced my life are far beyond the realms of this word limit.

I'm just going to take a brief moment to really relish in the fact that I am indeed a senior with a handful of days left and it literally flew by before I could catch my breath, my mind is genuinely blown.

But I digress.

I think the pinnacle of my high school career (thankfully) came my senior year. Senioritis entered the playing field halfway into the second week of school, but the whole idea of "not caring" really changed my philosophy on life.

I stopped worrying about people's perceptions of me. I really sunk my teeth into this idea that if I can't make myself happy first, no one else will be able to. Ironically enough, in really attempting to embrace the real "Mary Landrigan," I gained a lot of friends while also realizing that some of the friends I'd had weren't really living up to the label.

I whipped to the "Watch Me" song in front of the entire school, fully aware of what a fool I made of myself, but I loved it and now I've got a story to share with my two closest pals, Paige Norton and Maggie Little, who danced right alongside me.

My verbal filter was slowly ebbing away (however there is still some debate as to whether this is a good or bad thing). I talked about things from the angle I saw them at, I didn't try to lie to suppress conflict. But by the same token I spent a lot more time listening, I tried to understand that no one really has this life easy; there's always hardships, difficulties and emotional breakdowns. Afterall, it's not like I'm the only one who has ever shed a tear or been stressed about juggling a million activities at the same time.

However, the biggest thing that Senioritis did for me was really drive and channel my passion for music. I am easily made uncomfortable when it comes to playing or singing for other people (and not just because I doubt the level of my abilities). This year something changed, like there was a subcategory within the "not caring" sector of Senioritis which flipped my mindset from "why?" to "why not?" So then I found fingers typing away frantically on a Thursday evening while en route to Gulf Shores requesting to play at the NHS Coffeehouse. And I got a time slot. And I actually walked up on that stage with my best friend Derek French and we sang and played guitars and suitcase drums and I had a fantastic time. Even those 10 minutes of performing opened more doors for me.

I pushed thoughts of discomfort aside to try and do what I loved. I didn't care if people disliked the way my voice sounded or if my piano playing or guitar strumming was subpar, because it's what I genuinely wanted to be doing. This confidence bled into my love for songwriting, and with very helpful exposure from the one and only Jacob McDonald, as well as this skyrocketing confidence I was discovering in not caring, I wrote the senior class a song. Then I found my arm being yanked over to the Senior Variety Show auditions by French to go sing this song in front of my peers, and though I shook like a leaf and resembled a cherry tomato by the close of the song rather than an actual person, I did it. As if that wasn't enough, I actually made the show. Then to take it one step further they put me in as the grand finale.

As if I wasn't busy enough, I am also accompanying the concert choir for Spectacular (a final show for all the sectors within the umbrella term "choir") as well as performing in three other acts on piano, guitar and even a dabbling of vocals. I am also performing in my own act, singing and playing a song I just wrote in 20 minutes before typing this article, so I guess we'll see how that goes. The Landrigan name must really get around the school, because I am also playing at the awards ceremony in between my softball games. Life's been a little more than crazy lately, but it's so much fun.

I understand that chaos isn't for everyone, but I thrive most at the heart of it. Senioritis has many side effects, but I haven't been necessarily subject to laziness--my schedule can't afford it. But in not caring, I've honestly learned more about who and what I love more than I could have fathomed, and therefore I am more than grateful for the diagnosis that came with my final year of high school.

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

Pawandeep Bola

Photographer '15-16

Moving on to new things and new ideas can be difficult for some, but I usually adjust instantly. It was the same when it came to moving onto high school from middle school. I take change as a new opportunity for me to develop as a person, discover myself more and improve myself. In fact, one of my good friends who is a senior has yet to decide on a college for the fall. I believe that she is in fear of how well she will be able to take change, emotionally and how well she can adjust to possibly everything new. I would just like to wish her good luck for what's to come for her next in life.

I like to think that I've accomplished quite a bit all throughout my high school career. I have been a part of sports, clubs, theatrical productions, visual arts and everything else in between, so much so that I was even able to start a whole new club for Homestead -- Photography Club. Through all my accomplishments in high school, I really found myself as a person.

I began to understand how much I enjoyed staying busy. At the start of my sophomore year, I started to pick up multiple after school activities to fill my resume with extracurricular activities. That's when it all began. It's when I truly started having a "high school experience," as they call it. I made more friends, went out to more events, and just had more fun!

It's not just me who has achieved greatness at Homestead, the whole graduating class of 2016 has accomplished so much in the past four years of being Spartans. We have won numerous sports titles --sectionals, regionals, semistate, state in all different supports-- we even set new records in fine arts, academics, and of course, sports. We are an amazingly successful group of individuals who know clearly where we belong and I believe that we are all going to do amazing things in the future. So, let's enjoy these last few days we left together and the best of every last moment before we all go our own separate ways. And here's to new beginnings!

NUMBER OF YEARS ON STAFF: 1

COLLEGE: Indiana University

Awbrei Vachon

Life Editor '15-16

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

As my senior year rolls to a close, there are many events, people and things that flood my mind--memories which thoughts of high school will exhume over the next several decades. High school was not what I expected it to be; in short, high school was far less exciting. I realize, however, it is the little things in life that matter. With that being said, I decided to do something completely unoriginal: list out everything and everybody that constituted and affected the last four years of my life, which I am eternally grateful for.

Short drinking fountains because it's much more convenient for me, being as short as I am.

Digital clocks, because taking the time to read a monologue clock would probably be the reason behind all of my tardies.

School laptops, for being both a brilliant tool in providing me everything I need, and for providing me with an excuse to sit there staring out into the distance during class because it refuses to work the way it was intended to: quickly and reliably.

Water bottles, because there was a time (freshman year, to be exact) when teachers could get mad at you for pulling out a water bottle in class because it might spill and not evaporate and ruin everything (water does that, apparently). Finally the school came to its sensing and allowed us water bottle-use in classrooms.

Pajama pants rebellion, also known as the biggest waste of rebellious ambition because nobody even wore pajama pants in the first place. it was ridiculous.

Dr. Price's AP Lit class, for showing me a brave new world of philosophy that was both beautiful and horrifying--Moby Dick will live on in infamy, haunting and enriching my life simultaneously.

Dual credit classes, because now I have successfully completely some college credits I no longer have to take in college.

My family for always supporting me and teaching me how to be a good person.

Senior experience -- a big shout out to this one. I can't even fathom how brutal my senior year would have been had I had a 7:45 a.m. to 2:35 p.m. schedule every day.

Mr. Harkness for making government class interesting, entertaining and enriching when I thought it would be boring, confusing and pointless.

The cookies at lunch because they truly make my tastebuds dance and my heart sing, making my days bearable.

Mrs. Tiernon for making my last year of track truly amazing. There is no one more full of light, comprised of more enthusiasm and passion, or funnier than she is.

All of my friends who have provided my with hundreds of laughs and gobs of support throughout my high school career.

Mrs. Jones for powering through the tough days and being a light to all.

My first relationship that has shown me a whole new perspective on life.

All of the tough experiences I went through that made me who I am today. All of the bad things that happened that made me good.

Homestead and all of its amazing teachers for providing so many great educational opportunities, we are truly lucky here at this school.

Also all of the school's staff members, such as the wonderful custodians, lunch ladies, administration and many more for working hard and being kind. Without them the school would not be the same.

Senior Skip Day as well as Senior Activity Day, because I have waited patiently for four years to indulge in these glorious traditions (note: yes we are all perfectly aware that Senior Skip Day is not an actual excused day, but quite frankly, we aren't too bothered by it).

NUMBER OF YEARS ON STAFF: 4

AWARDS: Ball State University J-Day Superior Award in News Writing

COLLEGE: IPFW

Spartana, for providing me with a sense of belonging, teaching me new skills and allowing me to express myself and my ideas. It's a truly beautiful program and I hope it flourishes in the future.

It's true--high school was nothing like I expected,, but despite great expectations being let down, high school did come complete with its drama, fun times, stress, payoffs, mistakes and most importantly: lessons.

I doubt you'll meet anyone who didn't get anything out of high school. It is an educational journey for sure, but more than anything it has actually supplied us with a combination of important life lessons. Teenagers are notorious for getting into trouble and having mental-stress breakdowns, among other things, and honestly I can't say we didn't prove those stereotypes wrong.

You learn in high school, by your senior year, that it doesn't matter what people think of you, that you're capable of so much more than you expect, that you don't always have to get so worked up about every little thing and that sometimes you just need to have a little faith that things will work out even when you have no clue what you're doing.

I'm not the first to say that it's crazy to think I'm graduating. Where did the time go? It feels like just last year I started as a freshman, and now I'm about put on that incredibly unflattering blue potato-sack-like gown, walk across a stage, receive a piece paper that is basically a physical representation of the last four years of my life and walk off that same stage as a completely different person. There's no going back from here and that is the single most terrifying thing ever.

Regardless of my fears, I'm beyond ready to start opening new doors. There's a beautiful world awaiting us grads out there, and as I literally finish writing out this chapter of high school, I'll shortly go on to write the next one.

Katie Maher

Opinion Editor '15-16

PHOTO BY YANA WEIR

The first thing a student learns in their journalism class is the importance of being a honest and reliable news source. On that note, I signed up for journalism my freshman year because my mom said it would look better on a college resume than basket weaving. But it is funny to look back now and realize how some class I took for a credit my freshman year grew to be one of the most fulfilling, beautiful experiences of my high school career.

I hate to get a little corny here, but newspaper really gave me my voice. I came into Homestead my freshman year with close to zero confidence, and ended my four-year journey as the opinion editor for The Spartana, which led to my involvement in other news and opinion oriented classes such as news anchoring and radio DJing. I even came to the point where I felt confident and comfortable enough to speak in front of 3,500 people at the start of every school day for the morning announcements. But all of this, absolutely all of this, rooted from journalism here at Homestead.

NUMBER OF YEARS ON STAFF: 4

COLLEGE: Indiana University

So, to form a better picture, my freshman self was awkward (of course), secretly passionate about animal rights, admittedly more liberal than the majority people in this area, and therefore full of ideas that never came out. I knew my opinions were "radical" to the student body as well, and I was terrified of confrontation. I knew I was scared of sharing my opinion because of having so many planets in Libra (duh), but my interest in astrology would definitely count as a topic I would be too nervous to discuss as well. But after my dad walked me to my fifth period journalism class every day for about a week because I would get lost at the beginning of the year, I found an environment that changed my life.

We were encouraged to talk about those things you are not supposed to talk about, or write about sports. I went by the notion of "nobody reads the newspaper, so I can write what I want to write about." I remember one of my earliest opinion articles on the mistreatment of chickens in the food industry. It sounds dumb, but I wanted to write about it. I guess the judges did not think it was a dumb idea either, since that article, along with the rest of the insanely well-done stories that year by my dearly dearly beloved staff friends earned us a Pacemaker award.

To be part of what had continually been called the best student newspaper in the country is what ultimately led to this realization that I want to have a voice.

It is important for all of us to have a voice. From my personal standpoint, I know a couple of my articles on animal rights led to a few friends going vegetarian, but this goes for absolutely any topic base. Write about what you are passionate about, and do not be afraid to share your opinions.

> "Conversation catalyzes change. In a world that needs a lot of change, we need to talk."

Conversation catalyzes change. In world that needs a lot of change, we need to talk.

On a quick note, I would like to thank absolutely everyone I had the pleasure to be on staff with all of these years. I would like to specifically call out Matt Killham. You will always be a dweeb. Adam Swiatkowski is the bee's knees. I assure you Jessica Tebben is the nicest person to ever touch my soul, and Reagan is the loudest. Ethan Zweig, all of our articles would be close to dog poo if we did not have your eyes. A special thanks goes out to Kylie Poling as well. You are a great friend and the nicest Slytherin. I have never encountered someone who has a life as chaotic but pleasant as yours. I hope it gets better.

Adam Swiatkowski

Online Editor '15-16

I'm surprised to even be here. Surprised that I never quit, which I came close to. I'm surprised that I even got into newspaper in the first place.

The biggest reason I got in was at the encouragement of my older brother as well as an agreement with my friend that we, for some reason, will become writers. Am I a better writer than I would have been? Debatable. But now, looking back on my four years of newspaper, it was one of the best decisions I could have made.

I started out in the journalism one class but I wasn't exactly in it. I would spend my days in the old Yellow Room, talking with senior newspaper writers and my friend Ethan Yde (12) while trying to escape any real responsibility in our class and assignments from the infamous Rod Kuhn. Basically taking a glorified study hall,

I lounged on couches made of boxes containing outdated yearbooks, decorated the room to kill the time and wrote only one story my first semester; so not an entirely good start.

But finally, in my first semester of sophomore year, I finally became more than an occasional guest writer for the newspaper and was named part of the sports writing staff. I think that was by far the scariest time of my high school; me, a little, powerless sophomore, had to interview the mighty sports figures that Homestead had to offer.

Doing interviews was by far my most hated requirement. It feels intrusive to talk to someone and pick apart their thoughts, honing in on some good question that would unlock their defenses and let me just get some quotes to throw into my story.

A surprisingly large chunk of my favorite high school memories happened in newspaper, more than I would have ever expected in what I thought was a simple writing class that served as a grade pad. Our publications trip to Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2014 was without doubt my most unique experience through high school, a trip that I feel many students aren't able to experience.

Flying out way too early in the mornings and being able to just wander around D.C. with a group of friends that I think I'll keep for a lifetime.

Cash $, Kylie, Ethan, Katie, Jess and all the rest on that trip will be the people I shared a period of my life with. Skipping meetings and lessons we were supposed to go to was about the most daring I've ever gone, and all the places we visited will stay with me.

My newspaper advisors were also central to my four years on staff. Most recently, with Mrs. Nowak; the trust she put in me and the encouragement and assistance she provides are the reasons I stuck with writing for the school newspaper for this long.

Along with writing and interviewing, I've learned a lot through my four years. I learned how little people actually read the paper, which is totally okay. I also learned how to regularly waste a 45 minute class and not do anything (for the record, sometimes I had nothing to do anyway). I learned how to roast people really badly with Matthew Killham (11). And, finally, I also learned about how to make the best decision of my high school career.

Often, students look down upon newspaper, thinking that it doesn't really matter or that there's no point writing. Do it. I will never regret it.

NUMBER OF YEARS ON STAFF: 4

AWARDS: Honorable mention in Sports Writing by JEA; Honorable Mention at 2016 Ball State J-Day

COLLEGE: Indiana University

Reagan Mikesell

Photo Editor '15-16

I don't write. I click a button and sometimes the photos turn out good and somehow I've made it into one of the most memorable parts of my high school career. I was never really into photography when Mr. Beck handed me a camera in the seventh grade. My older brother, Ben Mikesell ('12), was a photographer for the Spartana and at the time I copied everything he did. This time when I copied him, something good came out of it. I enjoyed taking pictures and I was soon wandering around Woodside Middle School with a camera at hand. My brother showed the adviser at the time, Rod Kuhn, some pictures I had taken and I was approved to skip the Journalism classes and be on staff my freshman year of high school.

Walking into sixth period Publications was terrifying. I had no idea who these upperclassmen were and I sat at the long desk along the wall away from everyone else. The bell rang and Kuhn was sitting in his chair and made direct eye contact with me. "You're a Mikesell," he said. "I can tell by your face." Everything went up from there.

My first assignment was to take pictures at the first home football game against Huntington North. I was anxious and I didn't know what to expect. Towards gametime, I introduced myself to the administrators on the field: Dr. Downs, Mr. Kintz and Mr. Lake. (At the time, I had no idea this greeting would become a ritual.) I stayed the whole game and took the most pictures I have ever taken before. I had butterflies in my stomach and I couldn't wait to get home and edit my first batch of pictures taken for the paper. (Again, this became a Friday night ritual.)

Three and a half years later, I'm sitting in a not-so-yellow Yellow Room writing my second ever story and I have no idea what I'm doing. This experience with the Spartana has been one of the greatest things I have done in my years of high school. I've been to amazing places, met awesome people and created friendships that will last a lifetime.

The Spartana gave me a sense of individuality. I was a known face at sporting events and administrators knew me by name. My pictures were on the district's website, in teacher's classrooms and showcased around the school. Without being on staff, I don't know how I could have made it through high school. Being on staff drew me closer to this school and the people around me. Walking down the halls you will hear students talk about how terrible Homestead is and how they wish things were different. Working on the Spartana helped me realize that Homestead is one of the best schools in the state.

So, to finish this terribly written goodbye, I want to say thank you, Homestead. I have had the best four years of my life here and I am thankful to be a Spartan. Thank you, Rod Kuhn for welcoming me to the program with open arms. Thank you, Mrs. Nowak for believing me and being another mother to me the last two years of high school. Thank you, Mr. Ginder for being the best principal a school could ask for. Your endless support shined through the students every day. Thank you, Adam Swiatkowski for making Newspaper such an enjoyable class everyday. Stay swaggy Swagkowski. Lastly, thank you, Kylie Poling for giving me the best memories of high school. Our endless laughs on planes to Boston (#LOSTINBOST), San Diego, Washington D.C. and Orlando I will hold very dear to my heart forever. Thank you for being such a great friend and crying with me when we met all of the Disney princesses. I can't wait to go to the Kentucky Derby with you in the years to come!

I'm terrible at ending things-- but this is only just the beginning.

NUMBER OF YEARS ON STAFF: 4

AWARDS: JEA NSPA Newspaper Sports Photography (2); Ball State J-Day Feature Photo: 2 superior, 1 excellent, 1 honorable mention; Women's Press Association honorable mention

COLLEGE: University of Louisville #GOCARDS